

# West and Central Africa

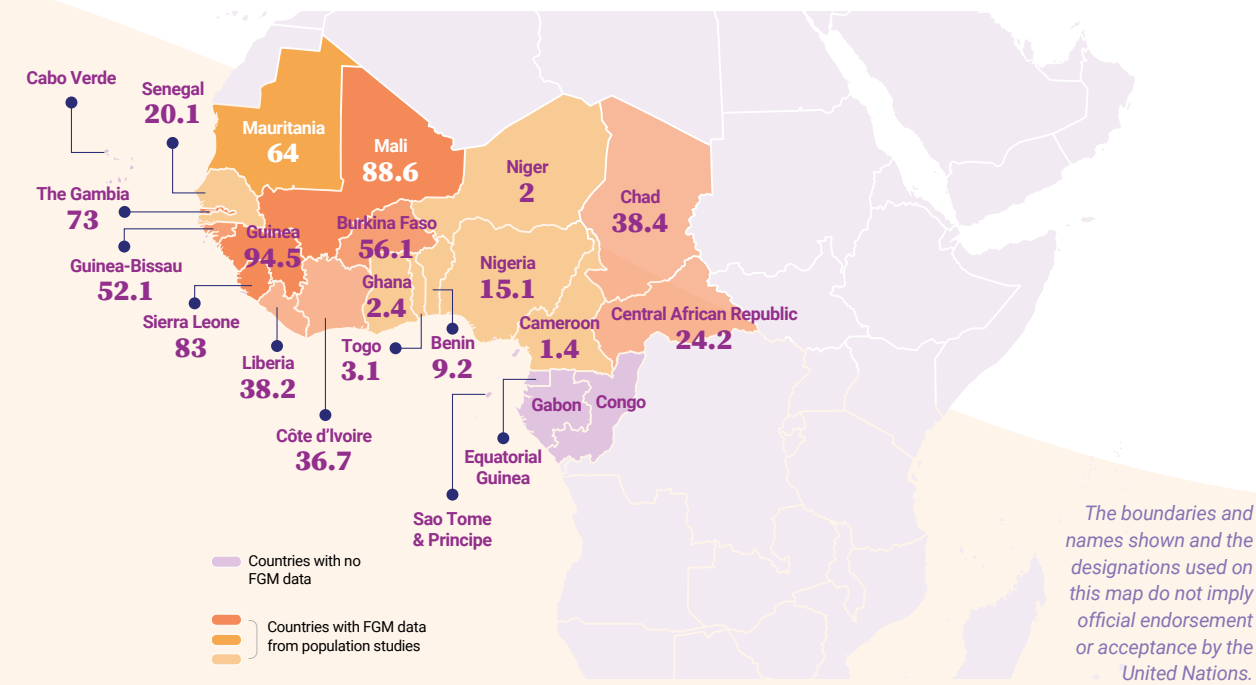
REGIONAL SNAPSHOT FOR 2024

## FGM context

Almost 50 million female genital mutilation (FGM)-affected women and girls (20 per cent of the global burden) live in this region. A regional analysis of current trends in the decline of FGM prevalence among girls aged 15–19 years estimates progress would need to accelerate 10 times to reach the target of eliminating FGM by 2030.<sup>1</sup> The estimated acceleration pace for every country varies; for instance, the pace in Nigeria is estimated to be at least 2 times, Burkina Faso 5 times, Mauritania 20 times and Guinea 100 times.<sup>2</sup> Nevertheless, regional performance is among the best globally. Benin, Burkina Faso, Liberia and Sierra Leone have shown the strongest progress in reducing FGM among girls aged 15–19. Furthermore, Benin, Cameroon, Ghana, Niger and Togo are predicted to end FGM by 2030.

The increasingly fragile context in the region due to humanitarian, climate and economic crises and population movements may dampen FGM elimination progress. Higher numbers of FGM cases have been reported in refugee-hosting countries that have low FGM prevalence, e.g., Cabo Verde and Ghana, although improved reporting would need to be ruled out first. Twelve out of 18 (75 per cent) countries have FGM national strategies while seven out of eight (88 per cent) Joint Programme focus countries have a current national multisectoral policy or strategy on FGM elimination with defined targets, allocated budgets and M&E components. Fourteen out of 18 (78 per cent) countries have FGM laws; exceptions are Chad, Liberia, Mali and Sierra Leone.

FGM in West and Central Africa Region



Source: Latest data from DHS, MICS, other national sources, research and reports.

Almost 50 million FGM-affected women and girls are in 18 countries in this region, 20% of the global burden

## Regional partners

| Number | List of partners*                                                           |
|--------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 3      | Equality Now, Equimundo, Sahel Women's Empowerment and Demographic Dividend |

## Highlights of 2024 programme results

|  |                                                                                                                                                             |                                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
|--|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|  | Number of <b>outcome documents</b> of global and regional intergovernmental processes that integrate FGM                                                    | Target <b>2</b><br>Result <b>3</b> | → Universal Periodic Review (UPR) Review Guidance Note<br>→ Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) Reporting Guidance Note<br>→ Contributed to the draft recommendations for the African Union Convention on Ending Violence Against Women and Girls, which will be launched in 2025                                                                                                                                                                                             |
|  | Number of <b>peer review processes</b> of relevant global and regional bodies and related committees that incorporate an FGM elimination progress component | Target <b>2</b><br>Result <b>3</b> | → Engaged with the West and Central Africa Commitment Accountability Framework's Regional Technical Working Group<br>→ Participated in the African Union Convention on Ending Violence Against Women and Girls; the the Joint Programme supported the <a href="#">youth consultation</a><br>→ The Joint Programme initiated a rapid data mapping exercise to review publicly available financial information on government programmes that respond to and prevent GBV, child marriage and FGM across West and Central Africa |

## Spotlighted interventions

### Movement-building, expanding and intensifying Joint Programme influence, and engaging youth- and women-led organizations

→ In 2024, the region successfully countered efforts to repeal The Gambia's FGM law through strong coordination and collective efforts by Joint Programme regional teams, other UN organizations, civil society, development partners, independent experts such as the UN Special Representative on Violence Against Children, and regional mechanisms such as the African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child, along with religious leaders. Evidence-based interventions informed by power analysis, regular social media analysis and strategic advocacy plans for civil society ensured well-aligned efforts. To prevent future backlash, seven focus countries (Burkina Faso, The Gambia, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Mali, Mauritania and Senegal) developed strategic advocacy plans for FGM elimination.

### Diversifying funding through public financing

→ In 2024, a joint regional rapid data mapping exercise began reviewing publicly available financial information on government programmes that respond to and prevent GBV, child marriage and FGM. The objective was to identify which analytics can be produced to support regional advocacy for expanded national budgets for prevention and response services for girls and women along with technical assistance to optimize government spending. A methodology to measure public investment in GBV, child marriage and FGM services and create a financial benchmark for them will be tested in at least 10 countries in sub-Saharan Africa in 2025.

1 UNFPA, 2024. Level of Acceleration Needed to Achieve UNFPA Transformative Results.  
2 UNICEF, 2024. Female Genital Mutilation: A global concern. 2024 update.

# East and Southern Africa

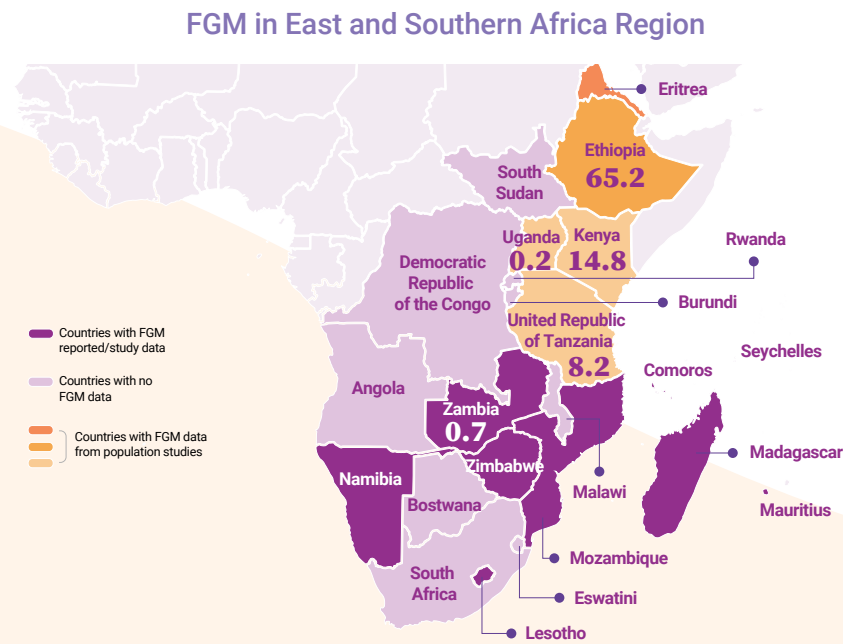
REGIONAL SNAPSHOT FOR 2024

## FGM context

East and Southern Africa is home to several countries with a notable decline in female genital mutilation (FGM) prevalence over the past decade, for instance, Ethiopia (from 68 to 47 per cent), Eritrea (nearly universal to 69 per cent) and Kenya (from 13 to 9 per cent). Both Uganda (0.1 per cent) and the United Republic of Tanzania (4 per cent) maintain low FGM prevalence rates among adolescent girls (aged 15–19). However, FGM remains almost universal in Somalia,<sup>1</sup> at around 99 per cent for the last three decades.

Five countries (Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda) have a national multisectoral policy or strategy on FGM elimination with defined targets, allocated budgets, and monitoring and evaluation components.

Increasing calls for FGM medicalization through religious leaders (Ethiopia) or the involvement of health workers (Somalia) is of concern. Cross-border FGM practices are also problematic, especially in areas with stark differences in prevalence, such as between Uganda (which is on track to eliminate FGM by 2030) and neighbouring countries like Kenya and Sudan, where FGM remains widespread and population displacement is rising. Nine countries (the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Mozambique, South Africa, Tanzania, Uganda, and Zimbabwe) have banned FGM. However, the alignment of FGM laws with human rights principles, law enforcement, and accountability mechanisms still requires further strengthening in the region.



Source: Latest data from DHS, MICS, other national sources, research and reports.

The boundaries and names shown on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

East and Southern Africa is home to several countries with a notable decline in FGM prevalence over the past decade

## Regional partners

| Number | List of partners*                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
|--------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 12     | African Council of Religious Leaders, African Women Rights Advocate, Akina Mama wa Afrika, Amref Health Afrika, Intergovernmental Authority on Development, East African Community, East African Legislative Assembly, Eastern African Sub-Regional Support Initiative for the Advancement of Women, Equality Now, Global Youth Consortium Against FGM, Orchid Project, Sonke Gender Justice |

## Highlights of 2024 programme results

|  |                                                                                                                                                             |                                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
|--|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|  | Number of <b>outcome documents</b> of global and regional intergovernmental processes that integrate FGM                                                    | Target <b>2</b><br>Result <b>3</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>→ The African Union Convention on Ending Violence Against Women and Girls</li><li>→ The Inter-Governmental Authority on Development Child Policy Framework</li><li>→ The African Union Accountability Mechanism on Ending Harmful Practices</li></ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
|  | Number of <b>peer review processes</b> of relevant global and regional bodies and related committees that incorporate an FGM elimination progress component | Target <b>2</b><br>Result <b>3</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>→ Convened a strategic dialogue with the East African Council of Ministers, who committed to strengthening FGM-related intercountry coordination and collaboration including East African Community Prohibition of FGM Bill</li><li>→ Collaboration with the Intergovernmental Authority on Development to secure political and programmatic commitments to end FGM as well as addressing the pushback against laws against FGM</li><li>→ Engaged with the Southern African Development Community Parliamentary Forum to explore the integration of FGM into child marriage and gender-based violence review mechanisms</li></ul> |

## Spotlighted interventions

### Engaging women-led organizations and strengthening regional networks

→ The Joint Programme regional team organized a regional workshop for 36 local women-led organizations from Ethiopia, Kenya, Mozambique, Somalia, South Sudan, Uganda and Zambia. The workshop focused on gender-based violence in emergencies and harmful practices such as child marriage and FGM. It facilitated peer learning, capacity-building and networking, bringing women-led organizations into a more central role in programme implementation. Moving forward, the regional team plans to scale up engagement with women-led organizations given their deep understanding of community needs and roles in sustainable, locally driven solutions to harmful practices.

### Expanding and intensifying the global influence of the Joint Programme

→ A regional webinar launched a social innovation toolkit designed for young people, women and non-traditional partners. It provides practical guidance, especially for adolescents and girls to develop innovative ideas and accelerate collective efforts to end harmful practices, including FGM and child marriage. The toolkit also guides connections to grow social enterprises within and outside Africa, including with investors such as the African Development Bank, Africa Venture Philanthropy Alliance and Qhala. In tandem, a financing framework for innovation was developed to support sustainable funding models across the region. The Joint Programme sponsored a creative advocacy campaign using fortune cookie jars and playing cards to share messages on FGM and innovation. The campaign was spotlighted at the AfriLabs Annual Gathering, which had over 2,000 innovators and partners exploring solution-driven approaches to ending FGM. The “Incredible Stories” videos and a digital booklet showcased community-led innovations, and informed and inspired policymakers, funders and partners.

<sup>1</sup> Somalia is under the Arab States region for UNFPA and the East and Southern Africa region for UNICEF. Two regional summaries report on it.



# Arab States, Middle East and North Africa

REGIONAL SNAPSHOT FOR 2024

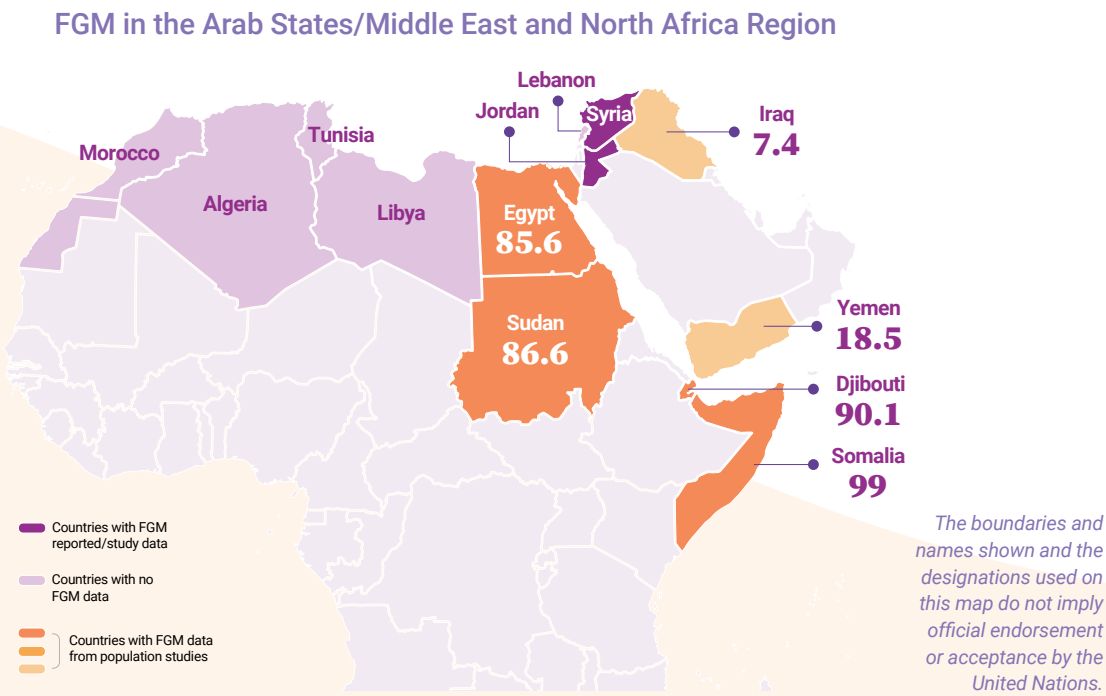
## FGM context

Female genital mutilation (FGM) in the Arab States/Middle East and North Africa region affects approximately 50 million girls and women, comprising close to one quarter (21 per cent) of the global burden. The region has the highest FGM prevalence globally, with the estimated population in just six countries (Djibouti, Egypt, Iraq, Somalia, Sudan and Yemen) matching the FGM-affected population of 18 countries in West and Central Africa. This region is also home to the highest FGM medicalization rate globally, mainly in Egypt (81.9 per cent) and Sudan (77.3 per cent), where doctors and midwives are involved.

A regional analysis showed that current trends in the decline of FGM prevalence among girls aged 15–19 years lags other regions, and progress would need to accelerate 26 times to reach the target of eliminating FGM by 2030.<sup>1</sup> The acceleration pace varies by country. For instance, 2 times in Iraq, 10 times in Egypt and Yemen, and 20 times in Djibouti and Sudan.<sup>2</sup> FGM elimination progress in Somalia<sup>3</sup> has remained stagnant for the last 30 years.

All countries in the region, except Yemen, have a national multisectoral policy or strategy on FGM elimination with defined targets, allocated budgets and monitoring and evaluation components.

Three countries (Djibouti, Egypt and Sudan) and the Kurdistan region of Iraq have FGM-specific laws.



Source: Latest data from DHS, MICS, other national sources, research and reports.

FGM in the Arab States/Middle East and North Africa region affects approximately 50 million girls and accounts for nearly one quarter of the global burden

## Regional partners

| Number | List of partners*                                                                       |
|--------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 2      | International Islamic Center for Population Studies and Research, League of Arab States |

## Highlights of 2024 programme results



Number of **outcome documents** of global and regional intergovernmental processes that integrate FGM

Target  
**1**  
Result  
**1**

→ Recommendations of the regional meeting on the cost of harmful practices convened by the League of Arab States

## Spotlighted interventions

### Movement-building through a regional religious leaders' network

→ In 2024, Islamic scholars from the International Islamic Centre for Population Studies and Research at Al Azhar University actively addressed Islamic perspectives and rulings on FGM and GBV across the region and beyond, including in The Gambia around the FGM law repeal. The centre trained 128 students (male and female religious leaders) from Djibouti, Egypt, Somalia, Sudan and Yemen, and established a regional religious leaders' network. The network's objective is to promote engagement and policy dialogue, and amplify and coordinate religious voices in ending harmful practices.

### Expanding and intensifying the global influence of the Joint Programme

→ The regional team led impactful FGM communications pieces such as a web story, "[Breaking the Cycle for Survivors](#)", that highlighted counselling and support in Yemen. Another piece, "[Unlocking the Power Within](#)", featured videos from [Djibouti](#) and [Somalia](#) as part of a regional campaign, "[From Survival to Flourishing: Stories from the Arab Region](#)". On the International Day of Zero Tolerance for FGM, a [regional joint statement](#) with the League of Arab States and a [regional social media package](#) were launched together with stories, data cards and quotes from Djibouti, Egypt, Somalia, Sudan and Yemen. Partnership with the League of Arab States culminated in 22 Member States participating in the 2024 Regional Meeting on the Cost of Harmful Practices. The meeting addressed the economic and health impacts of FGM and child marriage and called for Member States to increase national investment and action. Participation in cross-regional webinars or meetings to address FGM pushback expanded and built experience sharing and learning. For instance, Islamic scholars from the International Islamic Centre for Population Studies and Research participated in a virtual workshop with Gambian religious leaders and an in-person meeting in Cairo, Egypt with Gambian National Assembly members to discuss the religious, medical and legislative aspects of FGM. Al Azhar scholars, Egyptian parliamentarians and CSOs shared experiences, insights and evidence-based responses to complexities that emerge where FGM is seen as a religious obligation as well as its political manipulation.

1 UNFPA, 2024. Level of Acceleration Needed to Achieve UNFPA Transformative Results.  
2 UNICEF, 2024. [Female Genital Mutilation: A global concern](#). 2024 update.  
3 Somalia is under the Arab States region for UNFPA and the East and Southern Africa region for UNICEF. Two regional summaries report on it.

# Asia and the Pacific

REGIONAL SNAPSHOT FOR 2024

FGM affects around 80 million girls and women in Asia, the highest regional contributor to the global burden



Photo credit: ©UNFPA

## FGM context

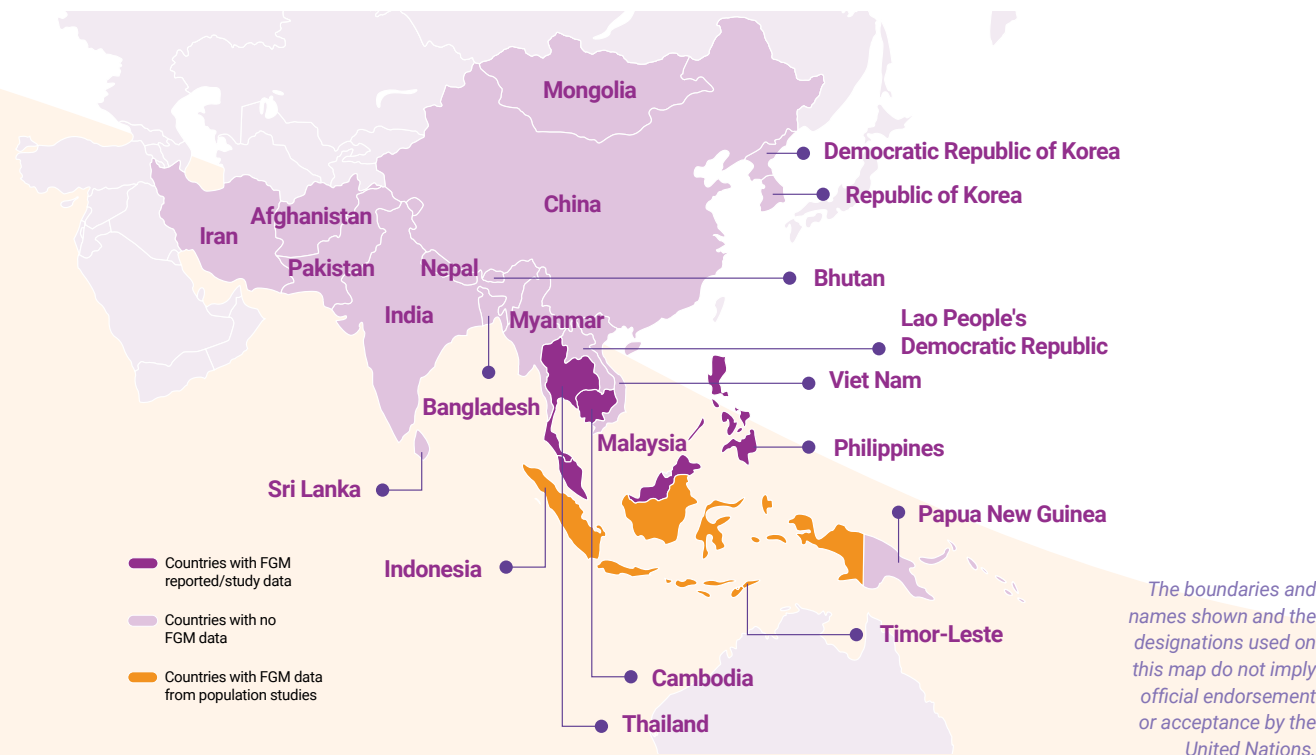
Female genital mutilation (FGM) affects around 80 million girls and women in Asia, constituting 35 per cent of the global burden, the highest regional share. Countries including Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, India, Maldives, Myanmar, Pakistan, the Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka and Thailand have documented FGM cases. Estimates for Indonesia and Malaysia are the highest in the region, including FGM medicalization.<sup>1,2</sup> There are limited official data on prevalence and a lack of systematic interventions or political will to end it. FGM is perceived as different from practices elsewhere, posing “little” harm and performed mainly as a religious rite.

None of the countries in the region has a national law or multisectoral policy or strategy on FGM elimination with defined targets, allocated budgets and monitoring and evaluation components, except Indonesia.

## Regional partners

| Number | List of partners*                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
|--------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 7      | International Confederation of Midwives (ICM), International Federation of Gynaecology and Obstetrics (FIGO), International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF), Marie Stopes International (MSI), Members of the Asia Network to End FGM/C, Orchid Project, World Health Organization (WHO) |

FGM in Asia and the Pacific Region



Source: Latest data from DHS, MICS, other national sources, research and reports.

## Spotlighted interventions

### Movement-building

→ The UNFPA and UNICEF regional offices hosted the inaugural [regional partners’ round table on ending FGM](#). This event gathered over 50 stakeholders from various sectors, facilitating discussions and cooperation. The meeting was backed by Australia’s “Breaking the Silence” programme, an initiative of towards universal SRHR in the Indo-Pacific. The new programme, implemented by UNFPA and UNICEF, aligns with the Joint Programme and will utilize insights and resources from other regions. A key outcome was an agreement on creating a regional accountability framework to advance efforts against FGM in South-East Asia.

### Expanding and intensifying the global influence of the Joint Programme and funding diversification

→ The newly launched UNFPA-UNICEF regional FGM programme in South-East Asia builds on the Joint Programme’s expanded global influence and enhanced funding mechanisms. The primary goal of the programme is to create a regional accountability framework. This framework will help build movements and develop the capabilities of key regional stakeholders, particularly in Indonesia, Malaysia and the Maldives. The programme signifies a shift from fragmented regional efforts to a more collaborative strategy. The positive reception of the inaugural partners’ round table indicates growing regional momentum to combat FGM, with a collaborative approach setting the stage for more effective interventions.

1 Equality Now, 2025. “The Time Is Now: End female genital mutilation/cutting, an urgent need for global response 2025.”  
2 FGM/C Research Initiative, 2024. [FGC in Asia: Short Report Series](#).



# Burkina Faso

2024 SNAPSHOT

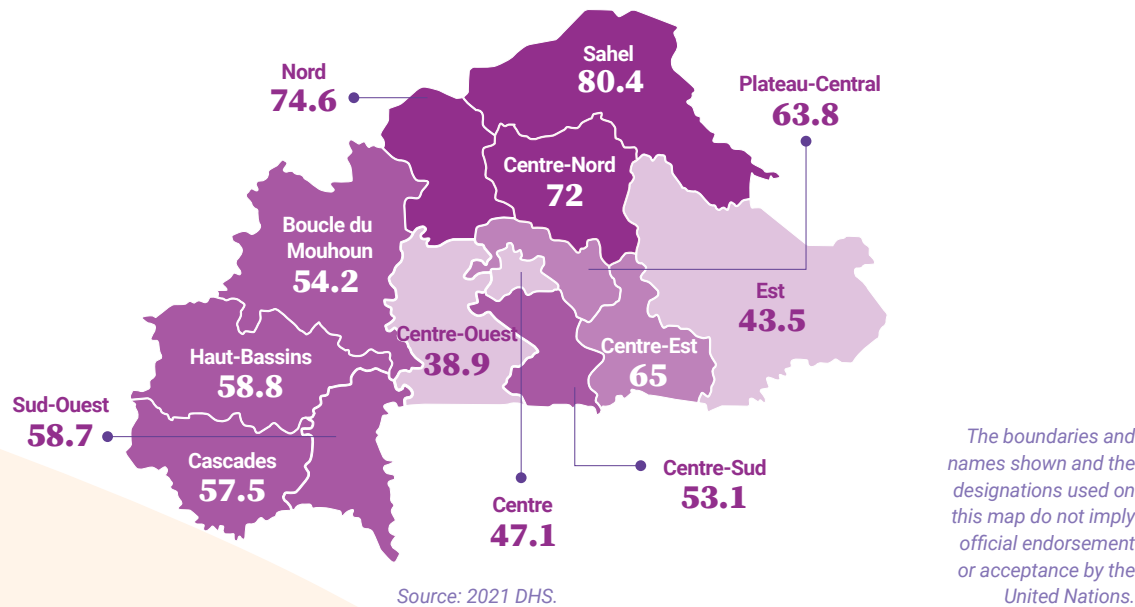
## Sociopolitical context

Following large-scale human displacement in 2023 driven by violence and insecurity, families began to return to their homes in 2024. Institutional changes led to the dissolution of the former coordinating body for female genital mutilation, with its responsibilities transferred to the General Directorate for Family and Children. In response, the Joint Programme, in collaboration with women’s groups and organizations,<sup>1</sup> successfully persuaded the Transitional Legislative Assembly to reinsert FGM into the political agenda.

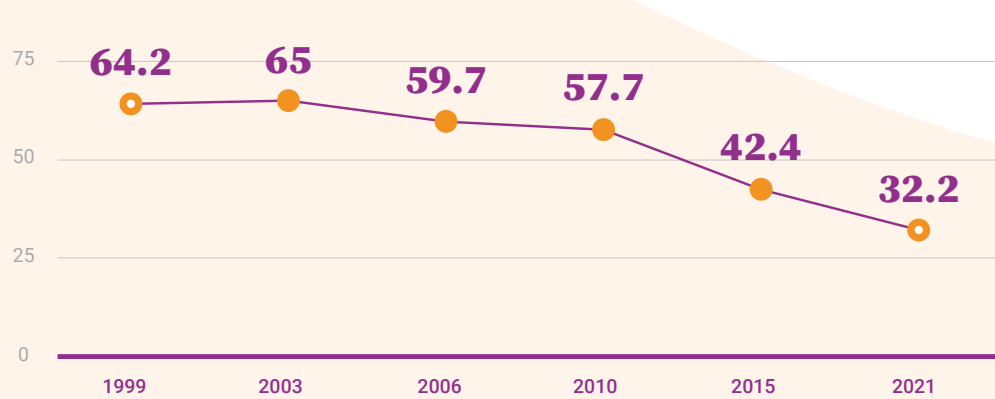
## FGM context

FGM is often linked to traditions, ethnic groups and perceptions of female purity before marriage.

Latest subnational FGM prevalence (percentage) among females aged 15–49 years



FGM prevalence (percentage) among females aged 15–19 years from 1999 to 2021



Source: DHS, MICS and other national sources from 1999 - 2021.

## Social norms (2024 data)<sup>2</sup>

Descriptive norm:



of men and women believe that most girls aged 10–14 years in their community have had some form of FGM.

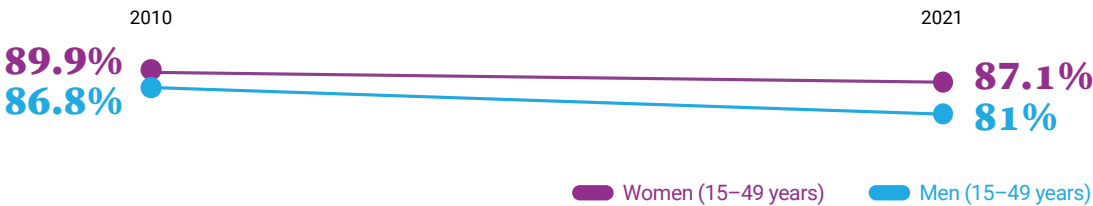
Injunctive norm:



of men and women believe that their community expects them to continue to practice FGM.

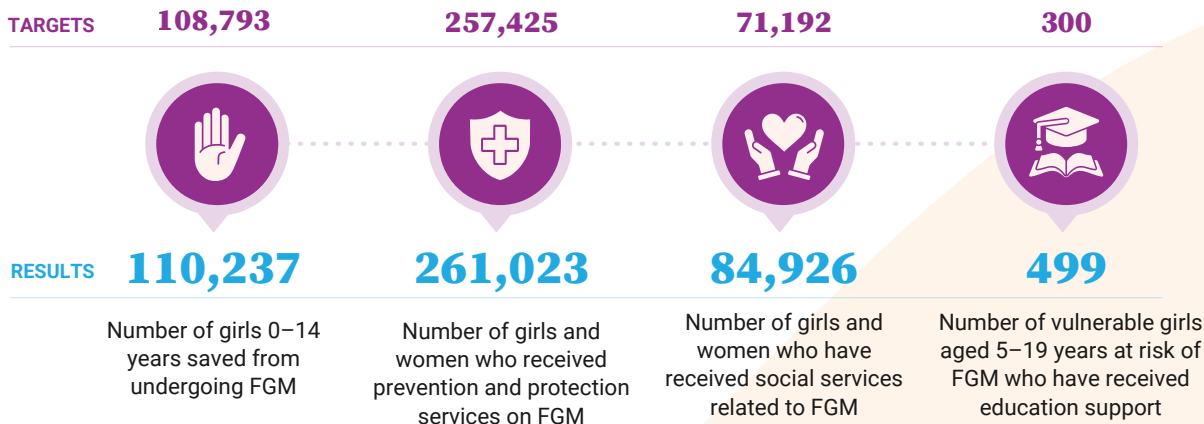
Outcome expectancies: No data available.

## Proportion of individuals who believe FGM should be stopped



Source: DHS, MICS and other national sources from 2010 - 2021.

## Highlights of 2024 programme results



## Spotlighted interventions

### Promoting girls’ agency

➔ Life skills capacity-building took place in 12 of the 13 regions of the country. A total of 61,029 girls and adolescent girls (including 45 living with disabilities) acquired knowledge and skills to advocate against and help prevent FGM. Among these empowered girls, 4,573 initiated conversations about FGM in their communities, especially with their peers, and also participated in reporting and denouncing FGM within their communities.

### Movement-building

➔ In 2024, 700 additional villages publicly committed to abandon harmful social norms. The total number of villages making declarations against FGM, child marriage and violence against children is now 8,016 out of 8,800 nationwide (91 per cent). About 224,000 individuals, including 3,500 religious and traditional leaders, made public commitments to end FGM. Over 600 new monitoring units were established to oversee adherence to community pledges. Furthermore, 61,834 boys and men actively participated in promoting positive masculinity and gender equality, advocating for FGM elimination through peer dialogues.

<sup>1</sup> Women’s Voices, Union of Religious and Customary Workers, Association of Women Lawyers, Pannetugri Initiative for the Welfare of the Girl, Association for Education and Awakening Pugsada and National Coalition for the Fight against Child Marriage.

<sup>2</sup> UNFPA, Population & Reproductive Health Institute at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health (2024). Female Genital Mutilation Module Pilot Results. Unpublished manuscript.



## IN-COUNTRY PARTNERS

| Number | List of partners*                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
|--------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 16     | Association for Community Development and the Promotion of Children's Rights, Atéguina Clinic (private), Central Division of the Armed Forces Health Service, Children Believe, Division of Family Health, General Division of Family and Children, Mwangaza, Plan International, Regional Division of Health and Health Districts, Regional Division of Humanitarian Action and National Solidarity, Saint Camille Hospital (religious affiliation), Schiphra Hospital, Songui Manégré Association/Support for Endogenous Development, Communication and Development, Tin-Tua Association, Women's Voices |

\* List is a mix of implementing and strategic partners



# Djibouti

## 2024 SNAPSHOT

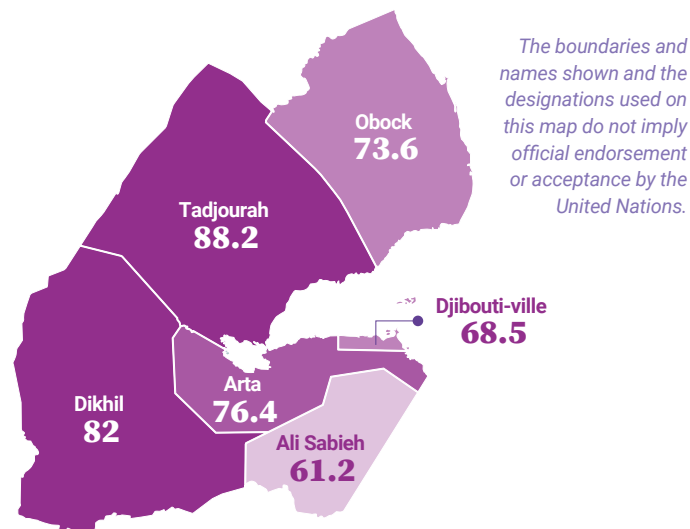
### Sociopolitical context

2024 was marked by strong political commitment to end female genital mutilation. Key achievements included the validation and adoption of the national gender policy and the national strategy for addressing Gender-Based Violence (GBV), which encompasses efforts to combat FGM. From 29 September to 3 October 2024, the Joint Programme Steering Committee convened in Djibouti for a field visit and its second regular meeting.

### FGM context

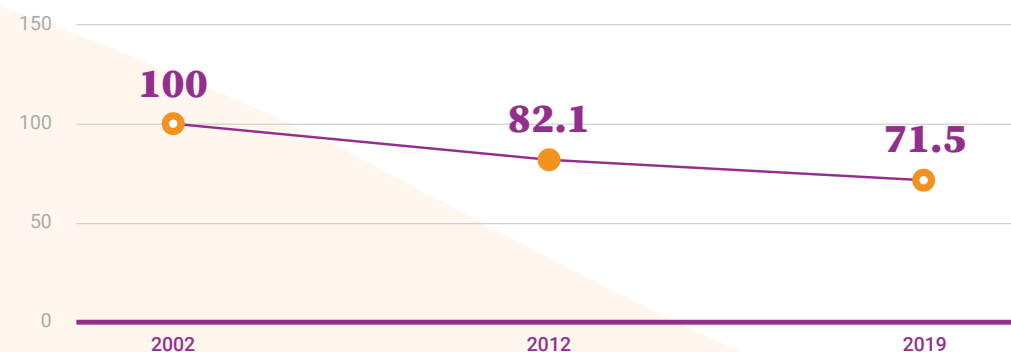
Among individuals aged 0–24, there is a shift away from the severest form of FGM, type III, to other forms. Interventions need to focus on zero tolerance.

Latest subnational FGM prevalence (percentage) among females aged 15–49 years



Source: Enquête nationale sur les violences faites aux femmes 2019.

FGM prevalence (percentage) among females aged 12–17 years from 2002 to 2019



Source: 2019 EVFF.

### Social norms (2024 data)<sup>1</sup>

#### Descriptive norm:

80%

of men and women believe that all or most of the girls in their community have undergone FGM.

#### Injunctive norm:

76%

of men and women believe that the practice of FGM has decreased in the past 12 months.

### Outcome expectancies:

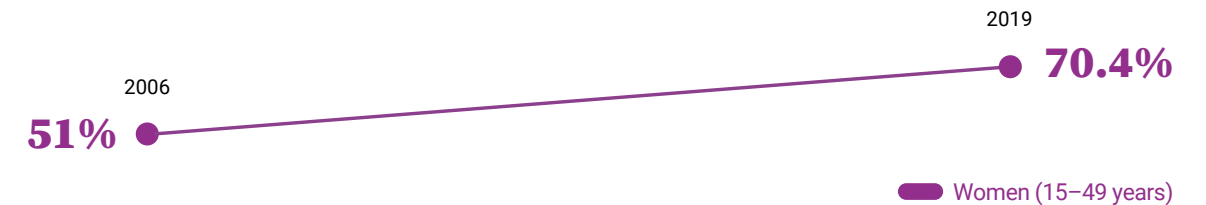
32%

of men who initially stated they would not cut their daughter would reconsider if faced with opposition from their loved ones.

13%

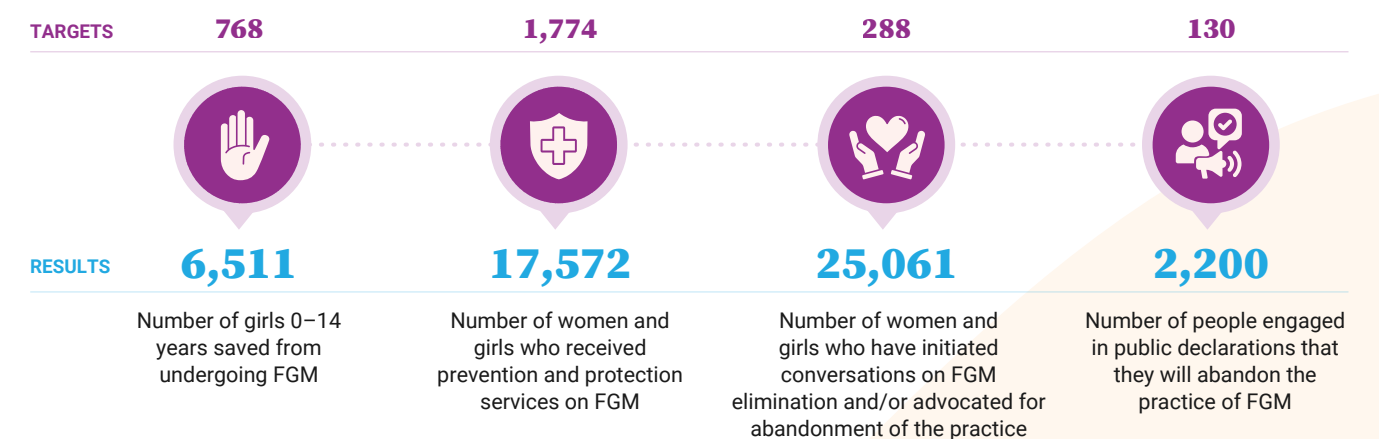
of women who initially stated they would not cut a daughter would reconsider if faced with opposition from their loved ones.

### Proportion of individuals who believe FGM should be stopped



Source: National sources from 2006 - 2019.

### Highlights of 2024 programme results



### Spotlighted interventions

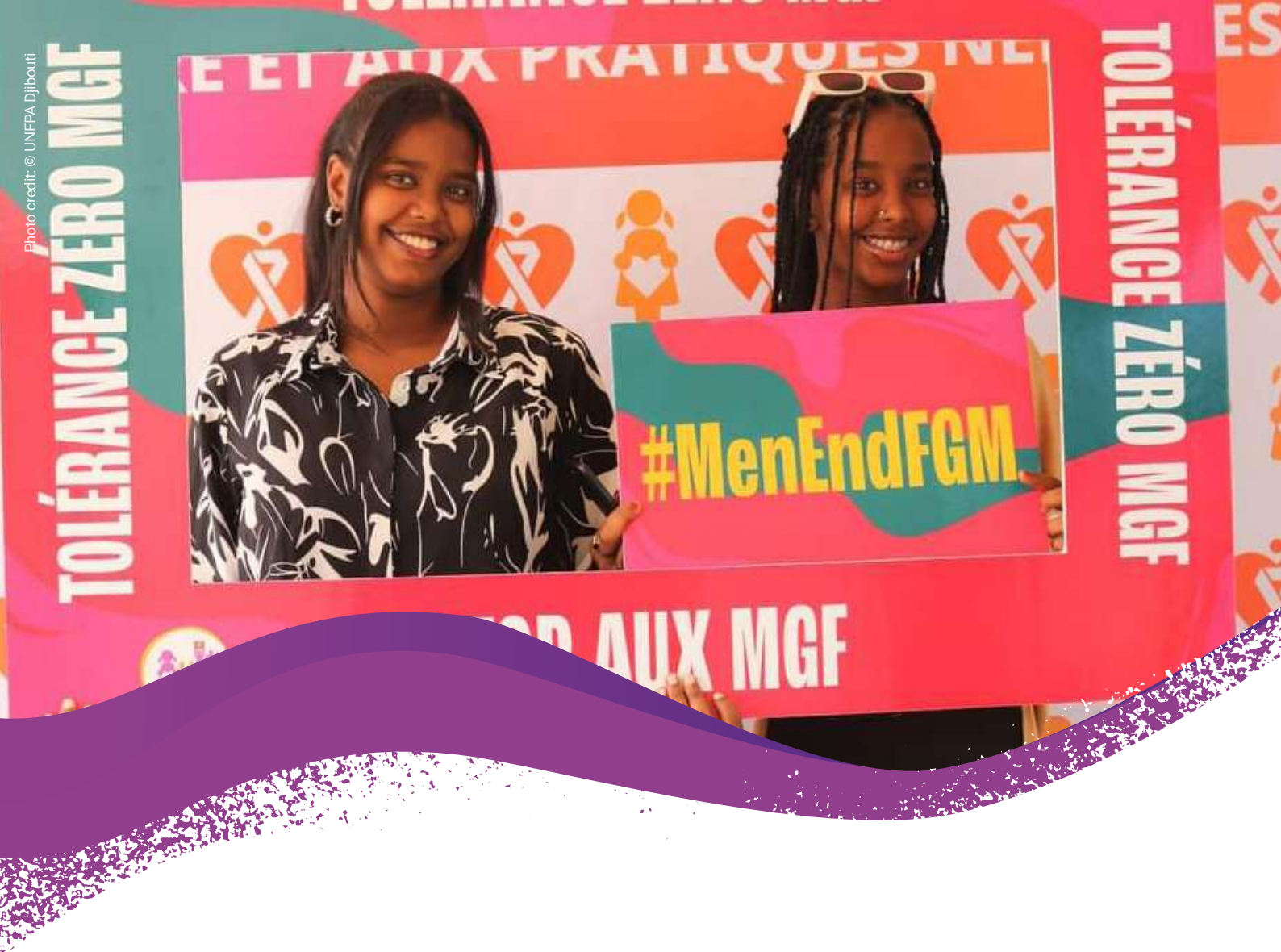
#### Movement-building

→ As part of the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence campaign, the Joint Programme, in partnership with the Ministry of Women and Family and the National Union of Djiboutian Women, organized a national symposium. It fostered knowledge- and experience-sharing, strengthened the formation of a national coalition to eliminate GBV and FGM, deepened understanding of these issues and proposed solutions adapted to the national context. The symposium enhanced synergies among 73 CSOs to improve awareness, prevention and survivor support. It led to concrete short-, medium- and long-term actions, accompanied by a roadmap for monitoring and evaluation.

#### Expanding and intensifying the global influence of the Joint Programme:

→ The Joint Programme effectively mobilized resources, primarily through the European Union, to advance the integration of FGM elimination into Djibouti's national policies. Djibouti's commitment is demonstrated by the provision of national human resources to implement FGM interventions as well as the integration of FGM indicators within health information systems. Government officials are actively lobbying for increased national budgeting with an upcoming public finance reform, which includes gender-sensitive budgeting within the new public finance framework.

<sup>1</sup> UNICEF (2021). Djibouti: Social Norms and Behavioural Drivers Related to FGM: Behavioural drivers for action. Unpublished manuscript.



## IN-COUNTRY PARTNERS

| Number | List of partners*                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
|--------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 11     | Desert Caravans and Knowledge Association, Elle&Elles Network, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Muslim Affairs and Waqf Properties, Ministry of Women and Family, National Agency for Persons with Disabilities, National Human Rights Commission, National Union of Djiboutian Women, Obock Regional Council, One Stop Center Community Relays, Tadjourah Women's Association |

\* List is a mix of implementing and strategic partners



# Egypt

2024 SNAPSHOT

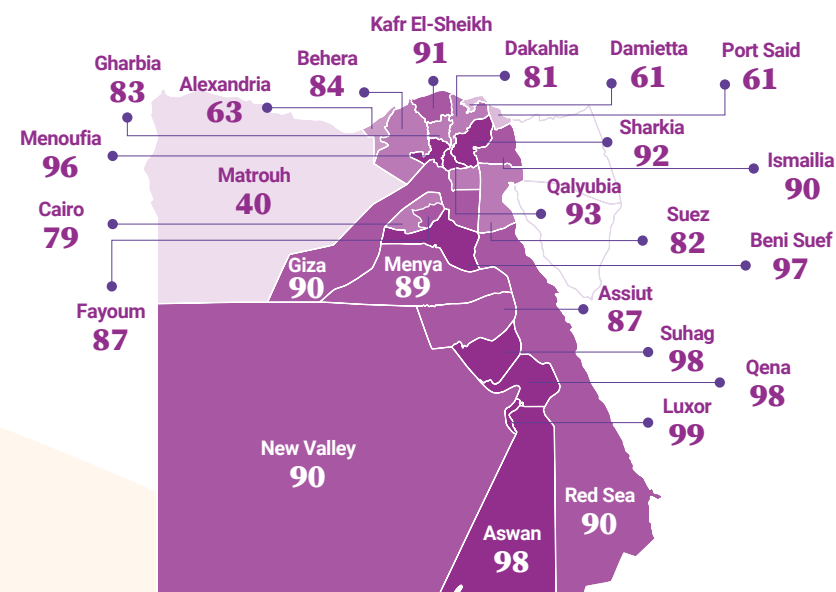
## Sociopolitical context

Egypt currently hosts nearly 9 million refugees, asylum seekers and individuals in irregular situations. These populations represent about 9 per cent of its total population. Following the recent conflict in Sudan, the number of Sudanese refugees surged by 218 per cent to an estimated 1.5 million.

## FGM context

Female genital mutilation medicalization prevalence in Egypt remains the highest globally. President el-Sisi has highlighted the health and child protection implications of FGM, stressing the need for health sector investment to stop the involvement of health workers. There is also a need to expand multisectoral responses (social, religious, educational and legal) and improve coordination among all sectors.

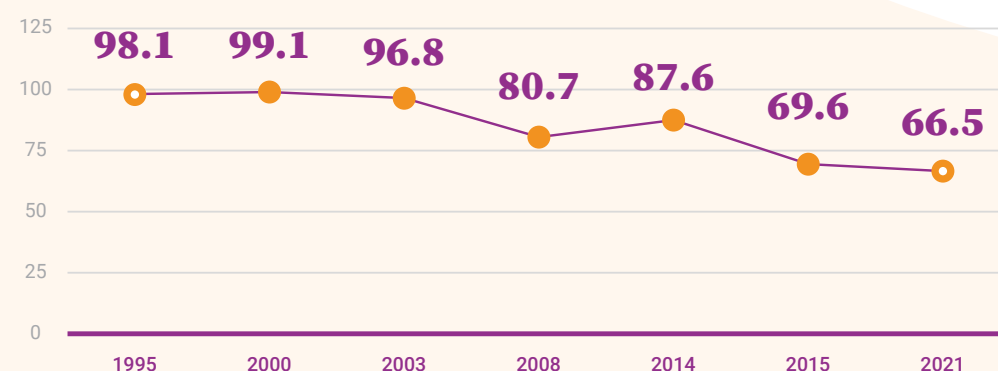
Latest subnational FGM prevalence (percentage) among females aged 15–49 years



Source: 2021 EFHS.

The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

FGM prevalence (percentage) among females aged 15–19 years from 1995 to 2021

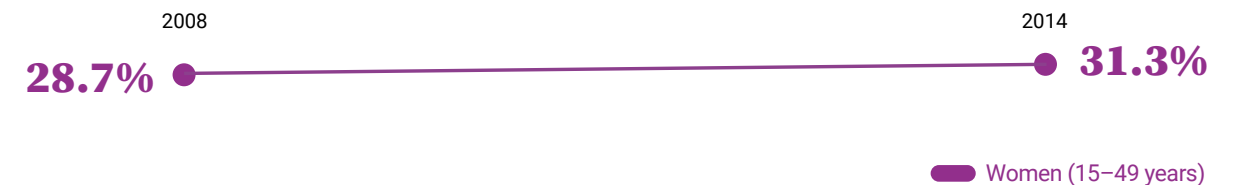


Source: DHS and other national sources from 1995 - 2021.

## Social norms

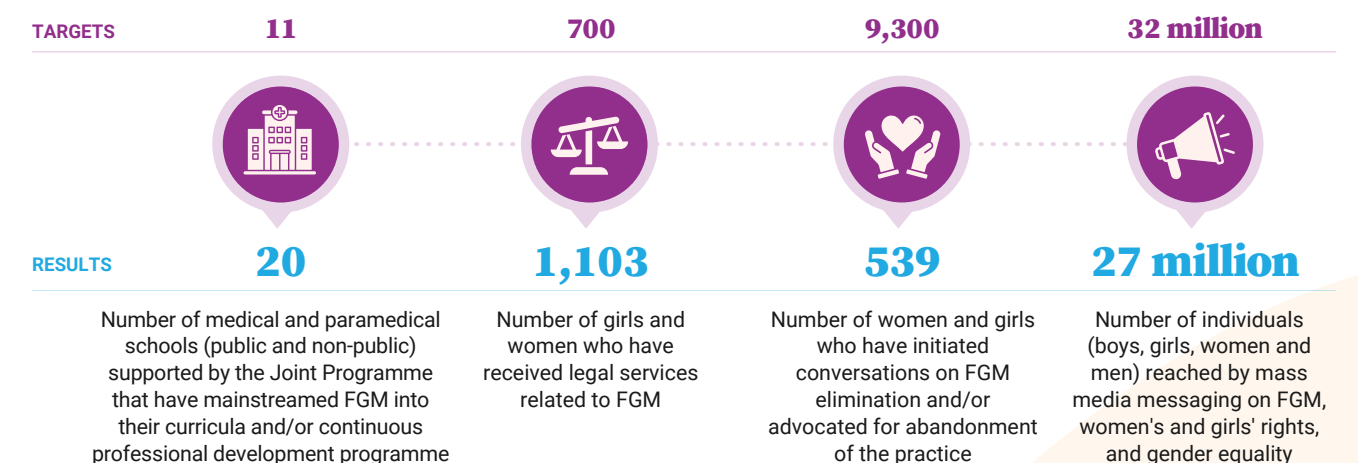
No data available for descriptive and injunctive norms or for outcome expectancies.

## Proportion of individuals who believe FGM should be stopped



Source: DHS and other national sources from 2008 - 2021.

## Highlights of 2024 programme results



## Spotlighted interventions

### Expanding and intensifying the global influence of the Joint Programme

→ In 2024, the Joint Programme, in collaboration with the Government of Egypt and the Ministry of Health and Population, integrated FGM education into the medical curricula of 20 out of 49 universities (41 per cent), facilitating sustained, large-scale training for medical professionals. Furthermore, the national "White Coat" initiative, supported by the Joint Programme, provided in-depth and comprehensive training for 2,736 medical service providers and 148 medical students from 15 governorates. Each trained health worker continues to train others or implement interventions to reach a wider population. "White Coat" trainees conducted 430 mini-awareness campaigns in their respective villages, for example.

### Promoting girls' agency

→ The Joint Programme works closely with the Government of Egypt to support two key girls' empowerment programmes that include FGM awareness-raising and safe spaces for dialogue, "Dawwie" and "Noura". These two programmes are part of the presidential National Project for the Development of the Egyptian Family, the "Hayah Karima" (Decent Life) initiative and "Bedaya" (Beginning) initiatives. In 2024, Dawwie reached 1.8 million people, including 110,000 girls across 27 governorates. Of those who participated in the digital literacy programme, nearly a third (29 per cent) reported an increased sense of self-awareness and 45 per cent more confidence in using digital platforms; 43 per cent gained greater confidence in both online and offline interactions. Noura trained 491 new mentors comprising women aged 18–24 years, bringing the total number of mentors to 948. The mentors are considered the most important programme investment, given their central role in implementing activities.



## IN-COUNTRY PARTNERS

| Number | List of partners*                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
|--------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 15     | Al-Azhar, Bassira Institute, Bishopric of Public, Ecumenical, Social Services (BLESS), CARE Egypt, Egyptian Foundation for Advancement of the Childhood Conditions (EFACC), El-Zanaty Associates Etijah NGO, Ministry of Social Solidarity, Ministry of Youth and Sports, Misr Foundation for Health and Sustainable Development, The American University in Cairo, The International Islamic Center for Population and Reproductive Studies (IICPSR), The Ministry of Health and Population, The National Council for Childhood and Motherhood, The National Council for Women |

\* List is a mix of implementing and strategic partners



# Eritrea

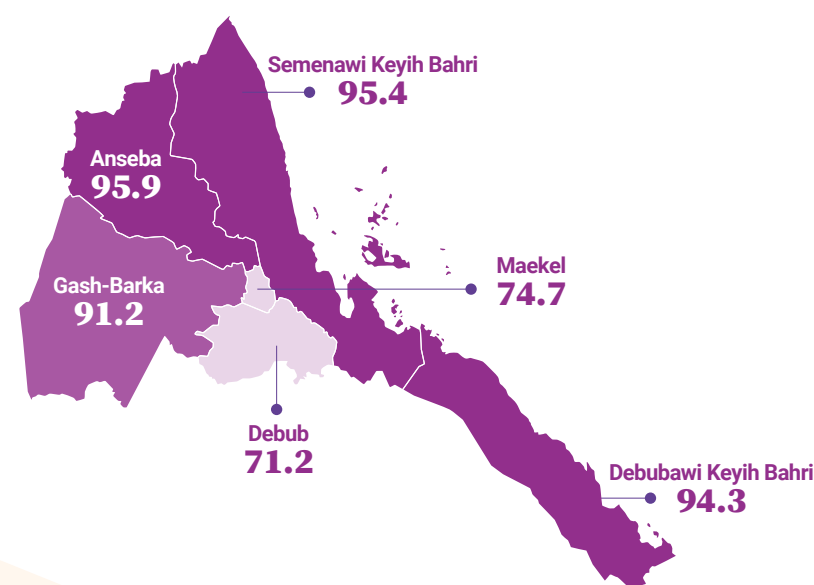
2024 SNAPSHOT

## Sociopolitical context

Eritrea's 30-year struggle for independence shaped its post-1991 focus on national unity and self-reliance. The Government drives social justice through nationwide initiatives in education, healthcare and gender equality, aiming to reduce disparities and boost inclusivity. Eritrea has notably empowered women via legal reforms and increased public participation, alongside improved access to essential services, especially in rural areas.

## FGM context

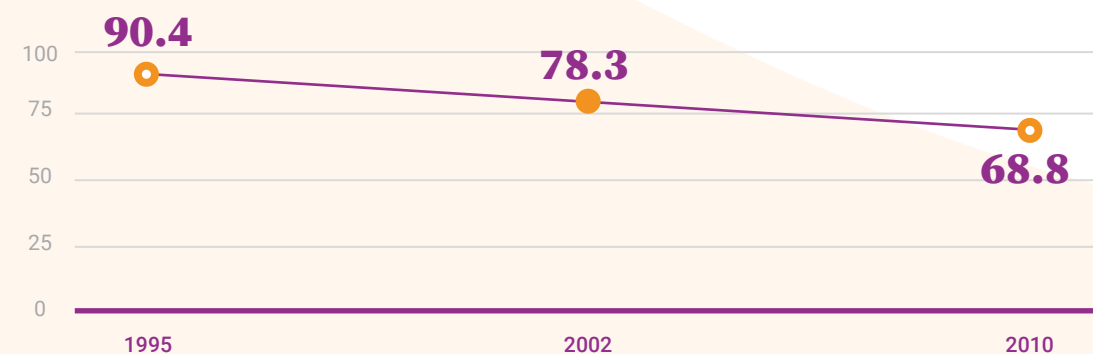
Latest subnational FGM prevalence (percentage) among females aged 15–49 years



Source: 2010 PHS.

The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

FGM prevalence (percentage) among females aged 15–19 years from 1995 to 2010

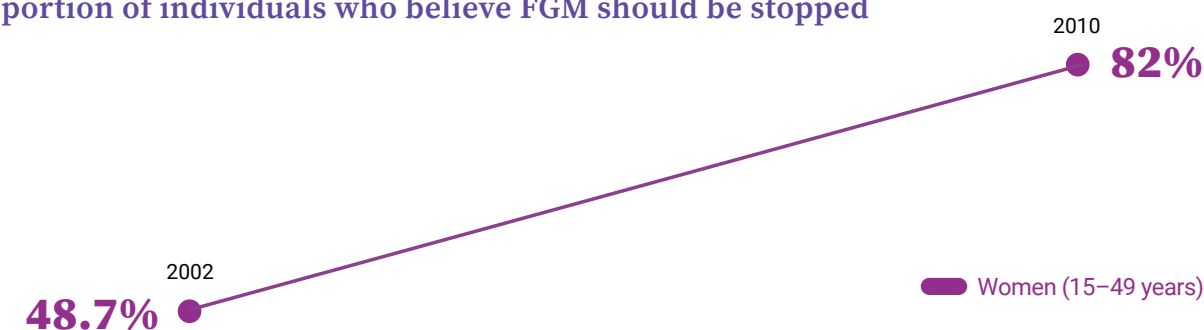


Source: DHS and other national sources from 1995 - 2010.

## Social norms

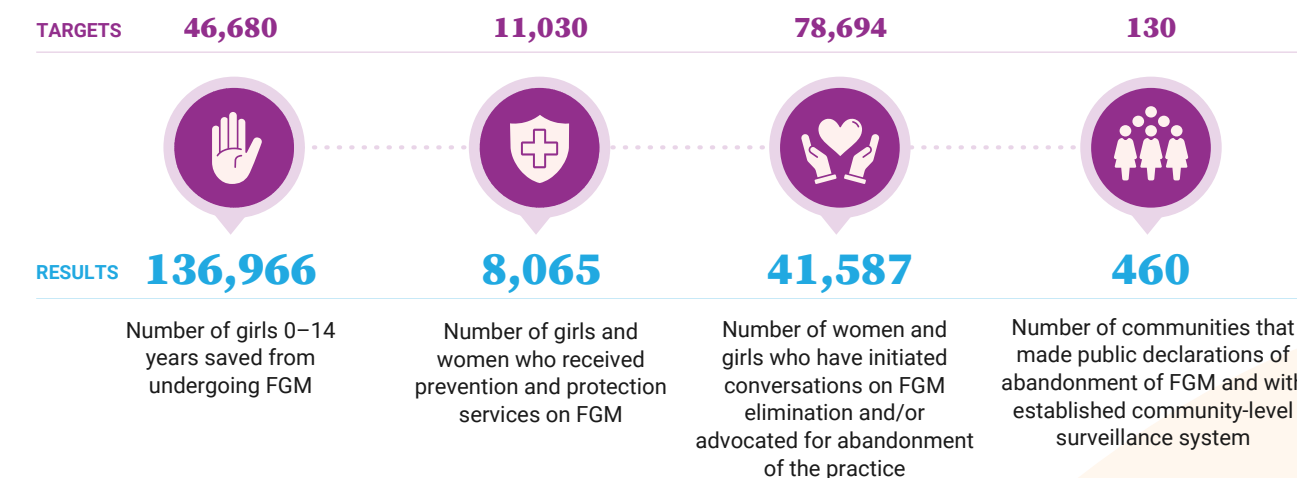
No data available for descriptive and injunctive norms or for outcome expectancies.

## Proportion of individuals who believe FGM should be stopped



Source: DHS and other national sources from 2002 - 2010.

## Highlights of 2024 programme results



## Spotlighted interventions

### Movement-building

→ In 2024, public declarations in 460 villages, covering over half a million people, pointed to an increasingly powerful collective commitment to ending FGM. Community-led surveillance systems monitor compliance with the declarations and sustain FGM abandonment in all six administrative zones, which resulted in protecting 136,966 girls in 2024.

### Engaging women-led organizations

→ The National Union of Eritrea Women operates in all six zobas<sup>1</sup> and their respective 67 subdivisions. It has over 300,000 members and a network reaching 90 per cent of Eritrean villages across all ethnic groups. This women-led organization has been active in promoting the elimination of FGM and other harmful practices in dialogues at all levels since its inception. In addition, through support from the Joint Programme provided in 2024, 8,065 beneficiaries in economic empowerment, leadership training and social service delivery were reached.

## Financing with diversified funding mechanisms

→ Eritrea has integrated FGM prevention into broader government and development programmes, ensuring sustainability beyond donor-driven initiatives. Ministries for health, labour and social welfare and the National Union of Eritrean Women have allocated resources and personnel dedicated to eliminating FGM. For instance, a government budget was allocated to train religious leaders, health workers and educators about ending harmful practices such as child marriage, FGM and others. Additionally, international collaborations, such as a European Union and UNICEF partnership, have bolstered funding for capacity-building and community-led initiatives.

<sup>1</sup> Administrative divisions in Eritrea.



## IN-COUNTRY PARTNERS

| Number | List of partners*                                                                                               |
|--------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 3      | Ministry of Health (MOH), Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare (MOLSW), National Union of Eritrea Women (NUEW) |

\* List is a mix of implementing and strategic partners



# Ethiopia

2024 SNAPSHOT

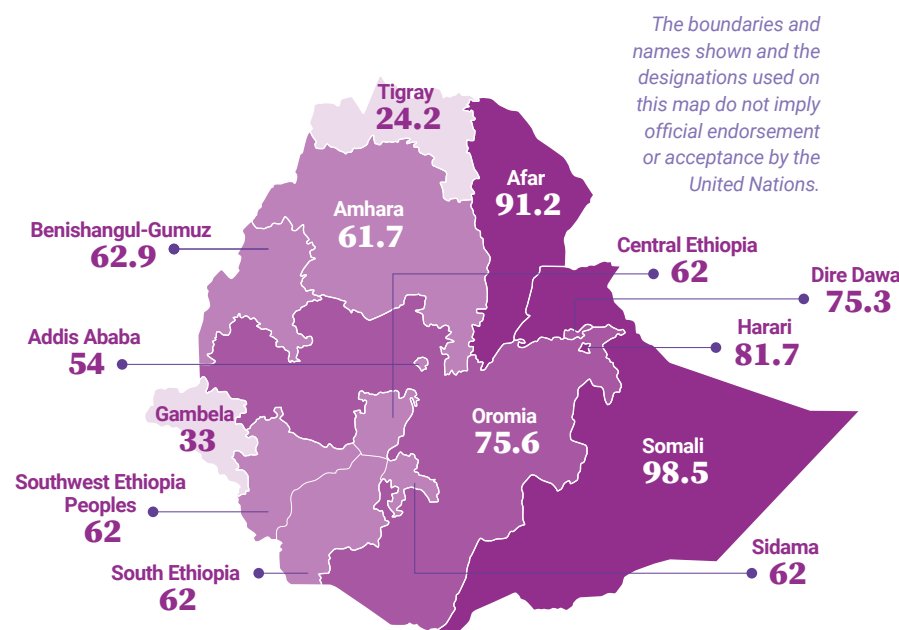
## Sociopolitical context

Ethiopia faces a complex sociopolitical situation marked by ethnic federalism, internal conflicts and challenging political reforms. Ongoing conflicts, especially in Amhara and Oromia after the Tigray peace agreement, cause significant displacement and hinder aid delivery. In 2024, 21.4 million people needed humanitarian assistance, including over 3.3 million internally displaced persons as of May, with conflict and drought accounting for 69 per cent and 17 per cent of displacement, respectively.

## FGM context

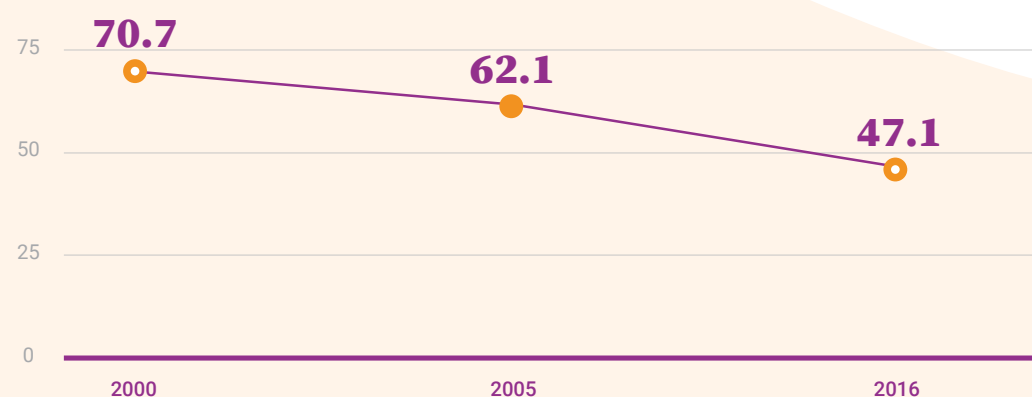
Ethiopia has a multisectoral strategy guided by the 2020–2024 National Costed Roadmap. The country has seen a relatively fast decline in female genital mutilation prevalence among girls aged 15–19. However, a concerning 2024 fatwa from the Ethiopian Islamic Affairs Supreme Council reportedly elevated FGM from a recommended (*sunnah*) to an obligatory (*wajib*) practice, sparking widespread condemnation. Human rights and women's organizations, including the African Women of Faith Network, argued that this decision contradicts national and international laws, violates human dignity and misinterprets Islamic principles. They urged the council to reconsider, asserting that FGM is a harmful cultural practice without a basis in the Quran or hadiths, and should not be medicalized or endorsed by health practitioners.

Latest subnational FGM prevalence (percentage) among females aged 15–49 years



Source: 2016 DHS.

FGM prevalence (percentage) among females aged 15–19 years from 2000 to 2016



Source: DHS from 2000 - 2016.

## Social norms (2023 data)<sup>1</sup>

### Descriptive norm:

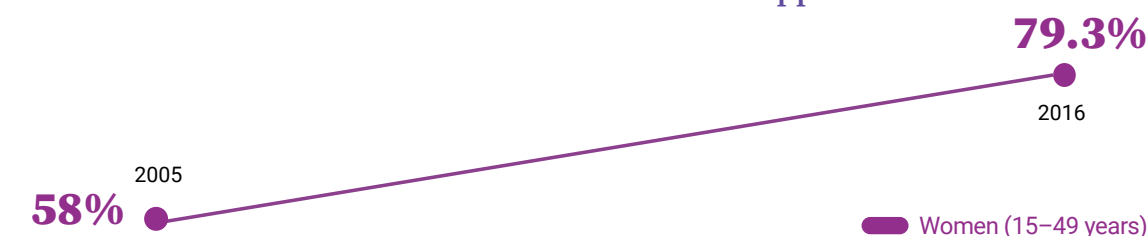
Community social norms endorse FGM (3.24–3.36).<sup>2</sup>

### Injunctive norm:

Social norms in communities endorse FGM (2.06–2.25).<sup>3</sup>

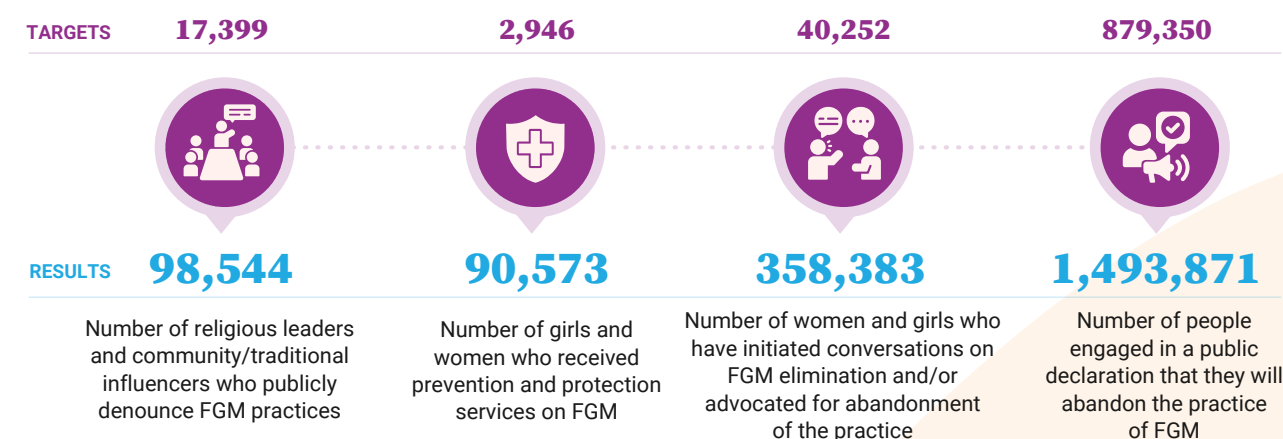
Outcome expectancies: No data available.

## Proportion of individuals who believe FGM should be stopped



Source: DHS from 2005 - 2016.

## Highlights of 2024 programme results



## Spotlighted interventions

### Promoting girls' agency

→ Emphasis on life skills education and out-of-school empowerment continued for adolescent girls. These initiatives, along with vocational training and leadership development, aimed to build girls' resilience to social pressures and empower them as agents of change. The Joint Programme evaluated these interventions in Afar, Amhara, Gambella, Oromia, Sidama and Somali, surveying 501 respondents, including adolescent girls and boys, parents, programme staff and community leaders. The evaluation revealed positive shifts in attitudes: Approximately half of out-of-school adolescent girls (47.9 per cent) now believe they have the right to refuse FGM, an increase from 41 per cent at the 2024 baseline.

### Movement-building

→ Efforts against FGM intensified, focusing on engaging religious and community leaders, youth and women's groups. Men's engagement in the Afar and Somali regions included active advocacy on girls' rights and FGM elimination. Religious leaders were key in dispelling FGM-related religious misconceptions. To counter cross-border FGM, community protection committees and local authorities along the Djibouti and Somalia borders cooperated to prevent girls from being trafficked for the procedure. Community surveillance and anti-FGM committees collaborated to identify at-risk girls for timely intervention. Research results from Samara and Hawassa universities on FGM knowledge, attitudes, practices and community readiness is anticipated in 2025.

<sup>1</sup> UNICEF (2023). Social behavioral change Ethiopia – adult (15+) community survey on attitudes, behaviors, norms, and practice of female genital mutilation and child marriage. Baseline data report. Unpublished manuscript.

<sup>2,3</sup> Scores range from 1–5, where 5 is the highest score.



## IN-COUNTRY PARTNERS

| Number | List of partners*                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
|--------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 25     | Afar NRS Bureau of Women and Social Affairs and Woreda Offices, Afar Pastoralist Development Association (APDA), Afar Regional State Bureau, CER Bureau of Justice, CER Bureau of Women and Children Affairs, Central Ethiopia Regional State Bureau, Inter religious counsel of Ethiopia, Ministry of Women and Social Affairs, Norwegian Church Aid (NCA), Organization for Welfare and Development in Action (OWDA), Oromia NRS Bureau of Justice and Woreda Offices, Oromia NRS Bureau of Women and Social Affairs and Woreda Offices, Oromia Regional State Bureau, Population Media Center Ethiopia (PMC-E), SER Bureau of Justice, SER Bureau of Women and Children Affairs, SNRS Bureau of Women - Youth and Social Affairs, SNRS Regional Attorney General, SWEPR Bureau of Justice, SWEPR Bureau of Women - Children and Youth Affairs, Sidama Regional State Bureau, Somali NRS Bureau of Justice and Woreda Offices, Somali NRS Bureau of Women and Children Affairs and Woreda Offices, Somali Regional State Bureau, South Ethiopia Regional State Bureau |

\* List is a mix of implementing and strategic partners



# Guinea

2024 SNAPSHOT

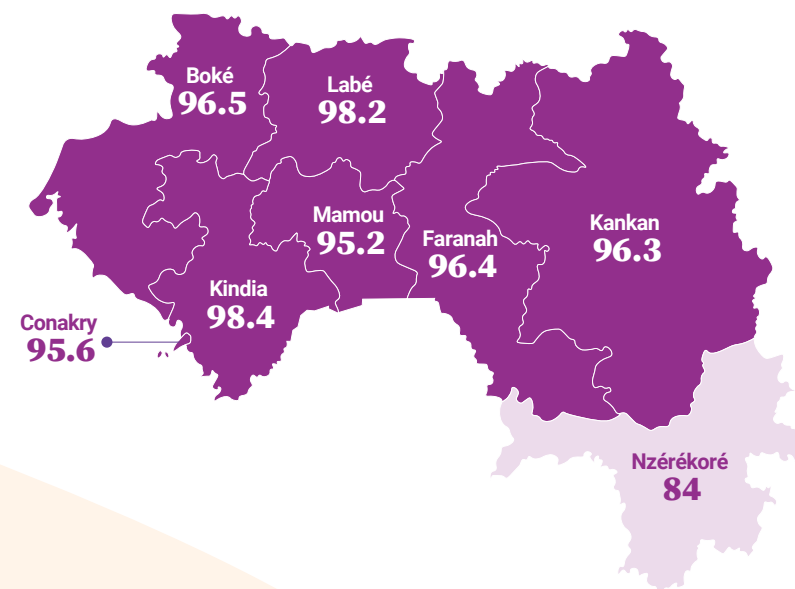
## Sociopolitical context

Guinea has been under a military-led transition since 5 September 2021, leading to a tense climate. The cost of living is high, and restrictions or closures affect media and social media access.

## FGM context

Female genital mutilation is practised across all major religious and ethnic groups, driven by deeply entrenched traditions and social norms. Analysis indicates some encouraging progress, particularly a decline in prevalence among girls aged 15–19 over the past 30 years. But without accelerated efforts to eliminate FGM, an estimated 714,369 women and girls are at risk of undergoing it by 2030.

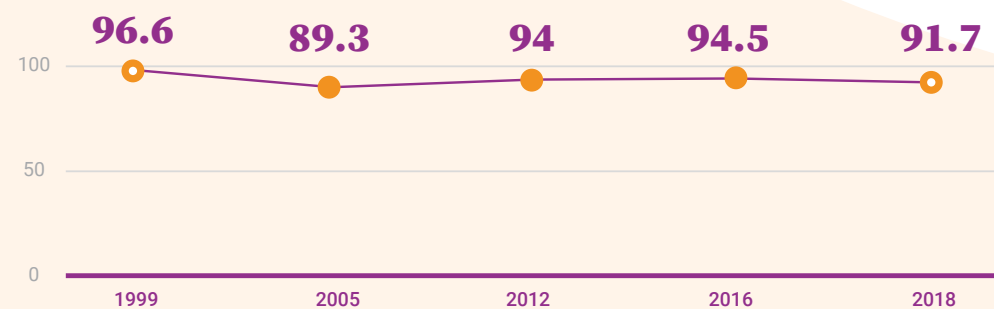
Latest subnational FGM prevalence (percentage) among females aged 15–49 years



Source: 2018 DHS.

The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

FGM prevalence (percentage) among females aged 15–19 years from 1999 to 2018

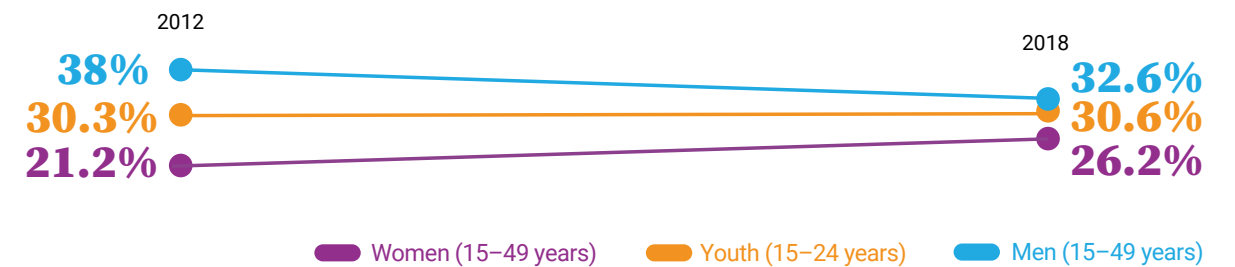


Source: DHS and MICS from 1999 - 2018.

## Social norms

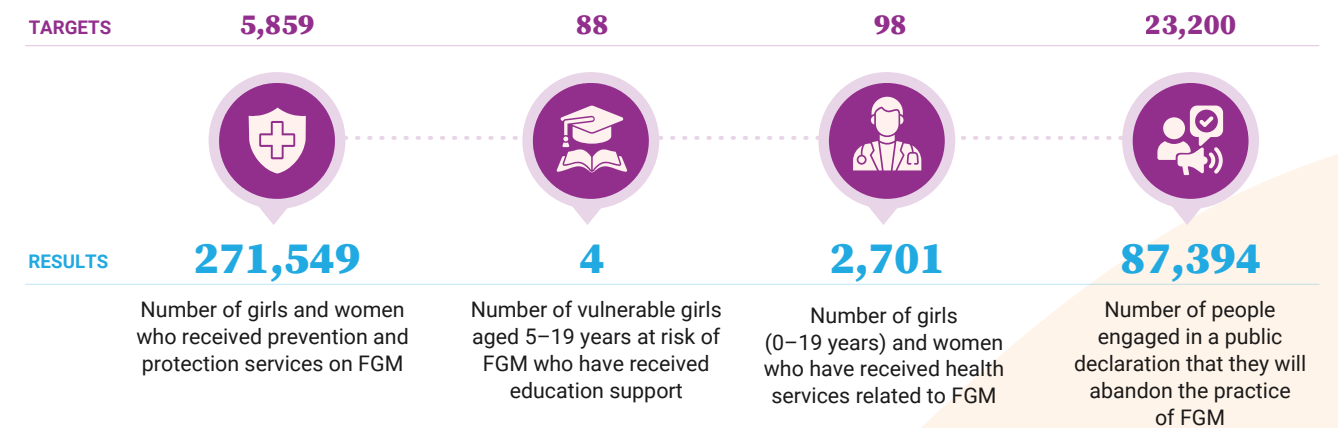
No data available for descriptive and injunctive norms or for outcome expectancies.

## Proportion of individuals who believe FGM should be stopped



Source: DHS and MICS from 2012 - 2018.

## Highlights of 2024 programme results



## Spotlighted interventions

### Promoting girls' agency

→ The chair of the Guinean Children's Parliament strongly advocated for FGM elimination on the International Day of Zero Tolerance for FGM. Both women's and girls' associations actively participated in drafting the new Constitution led by the National Transition Council. This resulted in explicit prohibitions against FGM in Article 9 and child marriage in Article 25. To safeguard these provisions in the final constitutional text, the Joint Programme and the National Directorate for the Promotion of Women and Gender, women's and girls' associations and the second Vice-Presidents of the National Transitional Council continue to diligently monitor and follow up on the drafting process.

### Movement-building

→ For the first time since independence, two Conakry neighbourhoods publicly committed to abandoning FGM, with local authorities present. These ceremonies engaged 860 participants, including community leaders and youth, leading to the protection of 184 girls aged 0–14 and 155 aged 12–18 from FGM and child marriage. Broad awareness activities reached 2,259,329 individuals and community dialogues engaged 634 community leaders (220 women among them), securing their commitment to supporting women's and girls' rights. Improvements in community monitoring mechanisms in 2024 led to 81 reported or prevented FGM cases.



## IN-COUNTRY PARTNERS

| Number | List of partners*                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
|--------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 19     | Association for the Promotion of Youth Entrepreneurship (APRODEJ), Association of Friends of Social Solidarity and Development, Circle of Volunteers for Local Development (CERVODEL), Club of Young Girl Leaders of Kindia, Club of Young Leaders of Guinea in Mamou, National Directorate for the Promotion of Women and Gender (DNPFG), Munafanyi Federation of Kindia (FMK), Governorate of Boke, Governorate of Conakry, Governorate of Faranah, Governorate of Kankan, Governorate of Kindia, Governorate of Labe, Governorate of Mamou, Governorate of N'Zerekore, The Club of Friends of the World, Mother House of Mamou, General Secretariat of Religious Affairs (SGAR), Tostan Guinea |

\* List is a mix of implementing and strategic partners



# Guinea-Bissau

2024 SNAPSHOT

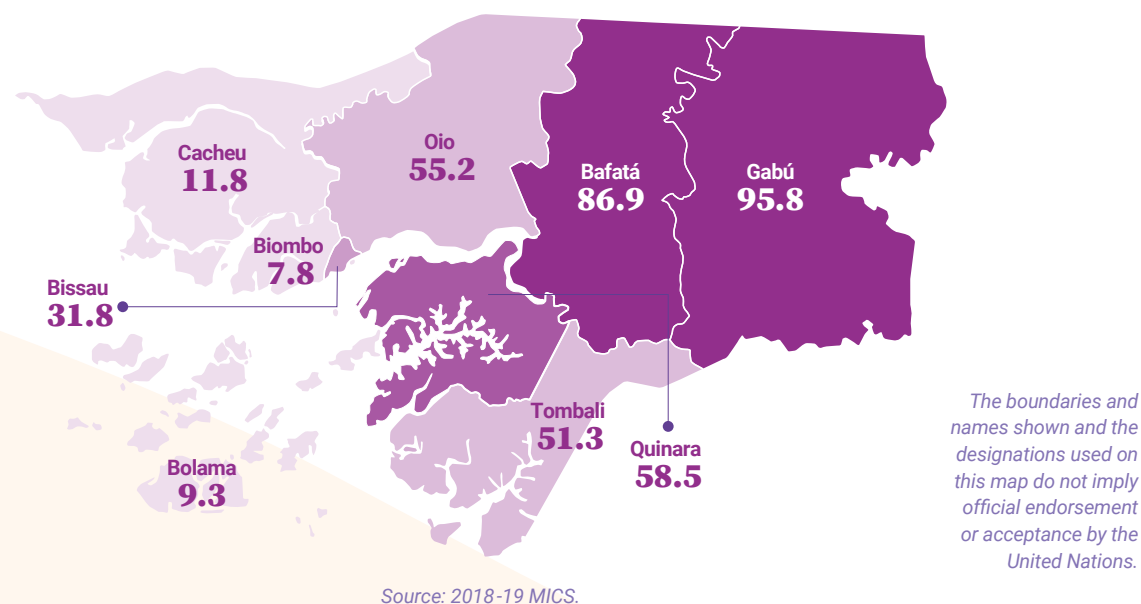
## Sociopolitical context

Guinea-Bissau has faced two decades of political instability, leading to frequent government changes and hindering consistent policy implementation. Its public sector is underresourced and fragmented, struggling to address critical needs.

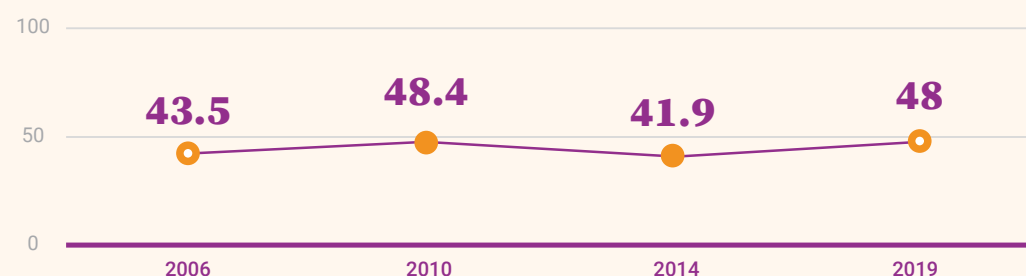
## FGM context

Although Guinea-Bissau has ratified several international commitments and has a multisectoral strategy on female genital mutilation as well as Law No. 14/2011, which explicitly prohibits and criminalizes FGM, the prevalence has not changed significantly over the last three decades. A study in 2024 identified several factors hindering change, such as traditional beliefs intertwined with religion, the conflicting stances of religious leaders on FGM, the low reach of programmatic interventions in rural settings and limited government engagement with the religious community in the FGM response.

Latest subnational FGM prevalence (percentage) among females aged 15–49 years



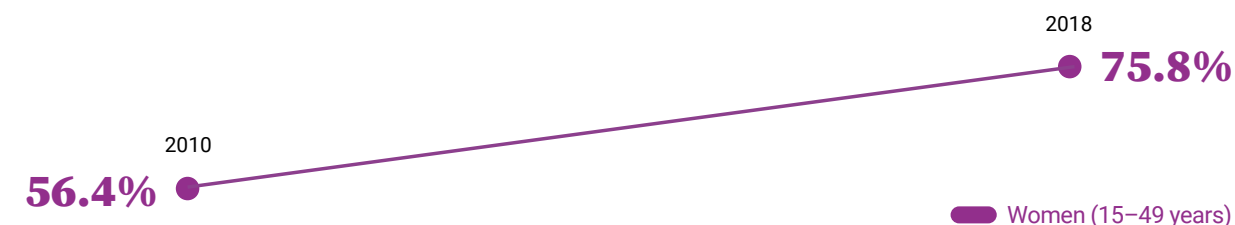
FGM prevalence (percentage) among females aged 15–19 years from 2006 to 2019



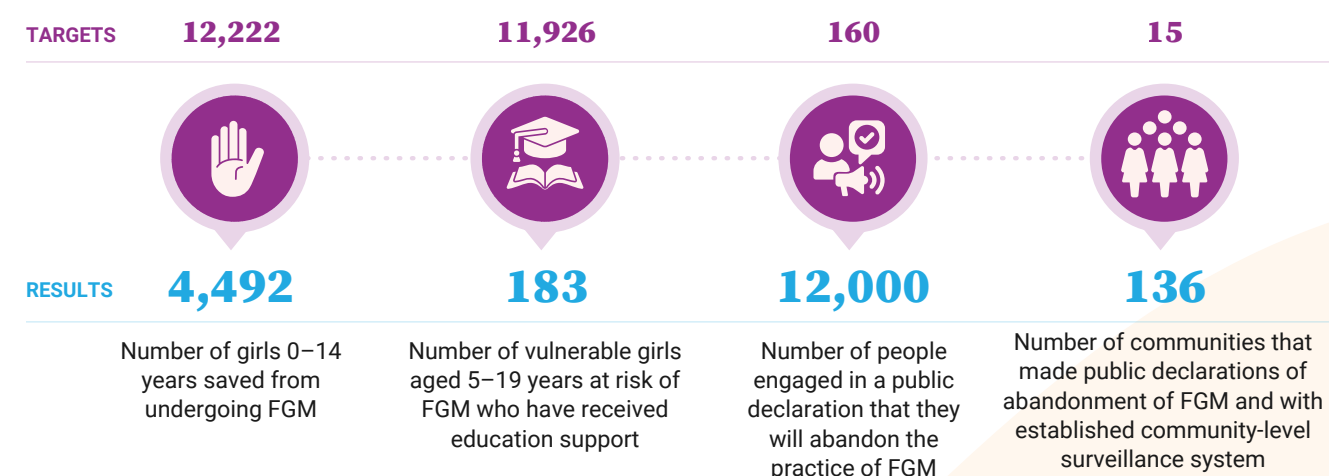
## Social norms

No data available for descriptive and injunctive norms or for outcome expectancies.

## Proportion of individuals who believe FGM should be stopped



## Highlights of 2024 programme results



## Spotlighted interventions

### Expanding and intensifying the global influence of the Joint Programme

→ The Joint Programme, alongside the Ministry of Social Action, Family and Women, engaged 82,272 individuals across 155 communities in community dialogues and collective action on preventing FGM and Gender-Based Violence (GBV). Buy-in by families and community leaders resulted in 136 communities across Gabu, Bafatá, Oio, Cacheu and Tombali publicly committing to adhere to human rights and end harmful practices that violate them.

### Promoting girls' agency

→ The Joint Programme, with the National Committee for the Abandonment of Harmful Traditional Practices, the Integrated Management of Childhood Illnesses programme and Tostan, supported awareness-raising initiatives involving 132 communities and youth networks. Community radio programmes in local languages covered topics such as the consequences of FGM and child marriage, and other issues related to human rights and gender equality. The engagement of 42 surveillance committees and 1,803 religious and traditional leaders in promoting girls' and women's agency enabled 46,396 women and girls to confidently initiate conversations on FGM elimination.



## IN-COUNTRY PARTNERS

| Number | List of partners*                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
|--------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 25     | The African Media Network for the Promotion of Health and Environment, Associação dos Amigos das Crianças - AMIC, Association of Women Media Professionals, Coalition of Child Rights Organizations, Guinea-Bissau Family Welfare Association (AGUIBEF), Guinea-Bissau Scouts, Institute for Women and Children, "Judiciary Police/ Women and Child Unit, Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Justice and Human Rights, National Action for Community Development (ANADEC), National Children's Parliament, National Committee for the Abandonment of Harmful Practices, National Forum on Youth and Population (FNJP), National Institute for Education Development, National Network of Young Women Leaders (RENAJELF), National network to combat violence against women and children (RENLUV), Network of Child and Young Journalists, NGO AMAR, NGO OKANTO, NGO PROTEGE, NGO Rede Ajuda (RA), SOS Village, Tostan, Youth Platform to Accelerate Key Results for Children (PJARCC-GB). |

\* List is a mix of implementing and strategic partners



# Indonesia

2024 SNAPSHOT

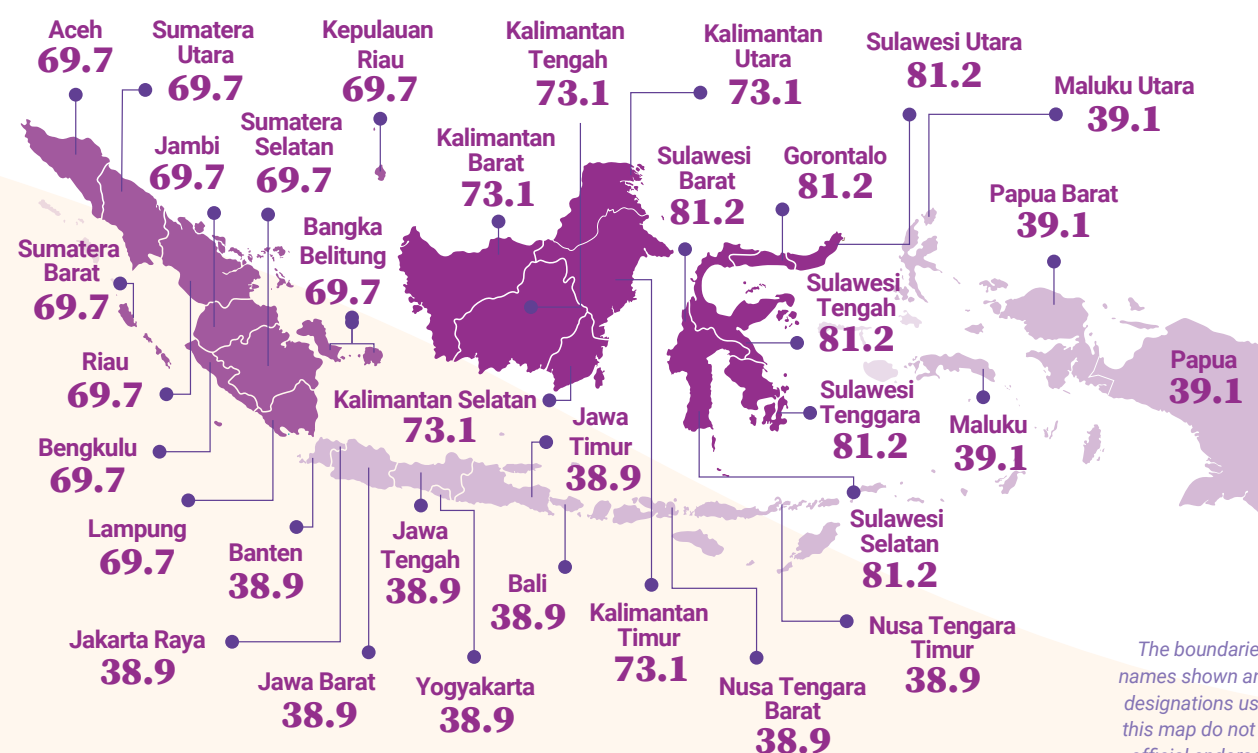
## Sociopolitical context

Indonesia, the world's fourth most populous nation, is grappling with a dual health challenge of both communicable and non-communicable diseases. The Government is actively working to fortify its healthcare system and achieve universal health coverage. The country is also highly susceptible to natural disasters, and to a lesser extent, localized conflicts and human rights issues, particularly in the Papua region. Indonesia's decentralized governance and cultural and religious sensitivities pose challenges to open dialogue on sexual and reproductive health.

## FGM context

Female genital mutilation is a deeply rooted practice often justified by cultural and religious norms. Midwives and traditional practitioners are mainly reported to perform FGM (48 and 51 per cent, respectively). The majority of reported cases (58.6 per cent) are non-invasive "symbolic" procedures. New government regulations (No. 28 of 2024 and a 2025 Ministry of Health regulation) acknowledge FGM as a human rights violation and outline steps for its elimination.

Latest subnational FGM prevalence (percentage) among females aged 15–49 years



The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

Source: 2024 SPHPN.

## Social norms

No data available for descriptive and injunctive norms or for outcome expectancies.

## Proportion of individuals who believe FGM should be stopped

No data available.

## Highlights of 2024 programme results

### TARGETS

**\* No targets were set for 2024**



**270**

### RESULTS

The number of people who engaged in a public declaration that they will abandon the practice of FGM



**85,000**

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

## Spotlighted interventions

### Expanding and intensifying the influence of the Joint Programme

→ The Joint Programme facilitated the expansion of FGM monitoring, planning and medicalization regulation at a national scale. For instance, a partnership with the National Development Planning Agency resulted in successful integration of an FGM prevalence metric into the nation's 2025–2029 National Medium-Term Development Plan and the Ministry of Women's Empowerment and Child Protection's strategic plan. Furthermore, the 2024 reproductive health regulation (No. 28) clause on ending FGM and its medicalization is an important milestone that could potentially positively influence national law ratification in Indonesia and elsewhere in the region.

### Financing with diversified funding mechanisms

→ To scale up interventions on FGM, the Indonesian Ministry of Health allocated a national budget for prevention and elimination. This is a crucial indicator of commitment to eliminating FGM and ownership of the FGM programme and its activities. In 2024, the Government co-funded pilot activities in three provinces, with the Ministry of Health providing \$33,740.



## IN-COUNTRY PARTNERS

| Number | List of partners*                                                                                                                                                               |
|--------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 5      | Indonesian Women Ulama Congress (KUPI), Ministry of Health, Ministry of Women Empowerment and Child Protection, National Commission on Violence against Women, Puan Amal Hayati |

*\* List is a mix of implementing and strategic partners*



# Kenya

## 2024 SNAPSHOT

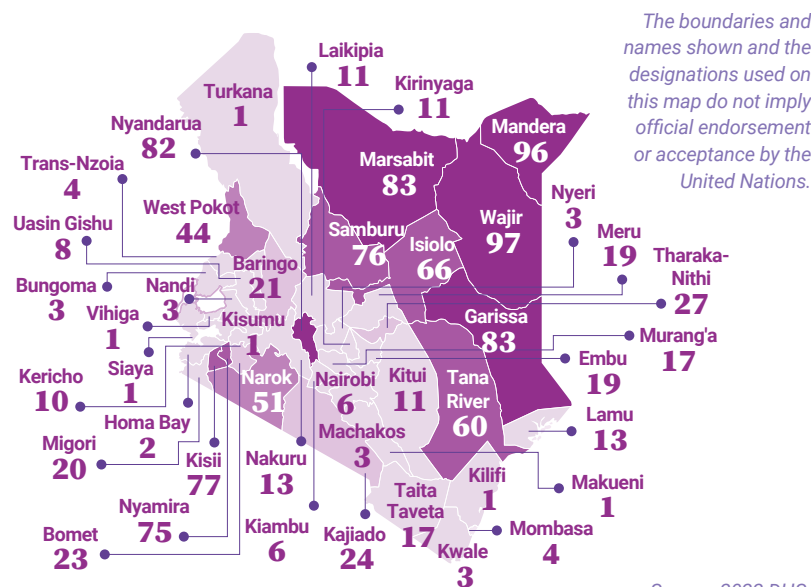
### Sociopolitical context

Kenya experienced severe El Niño-induced flooding in late 2023 and early 2024, resulting in 186 deaths and displacing nearly 545,600 people. This also severely impacted agriculture, health infrastructure and the economy.

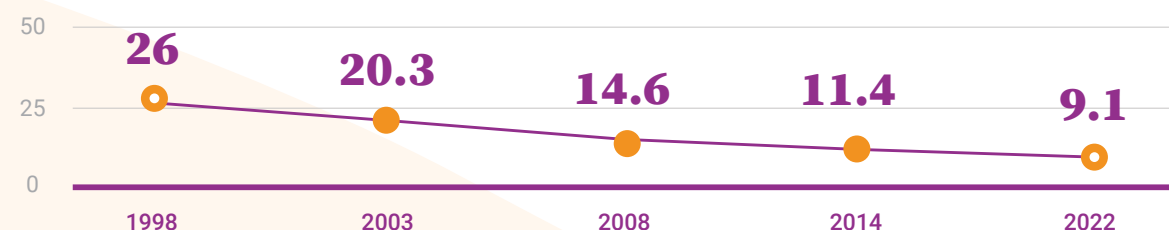
### FGM Context

Kenya has made significant progress in reducing female genital mutilation due to sustained national efforts and a supportive legal framework. However, the north-eastern region and pockets within some counties still have high prevalence rates, requiring targeted interventions to achieve the national elimination goal by 2030.

Latest subnational FGM prevalence (percentage) among females aged 15–49 years



FGM prevalence (percentage) among females aged 15–19 years from 1998 to 2022



### Social norms (2023 data)<sup>1</sup>

#### Descriptive norm:

74.5%

in Kuria West believe there is change in communities rejecting FGM.

49.8%

in Kuria East believe there is moderate change.

37.3%

in Samburu East believe there is some change.

#### Injunctive norm:

Proportion of respondents who thought that social norms in their community discouraged the practice of FGM

3.4%

Samburu East

33.3%

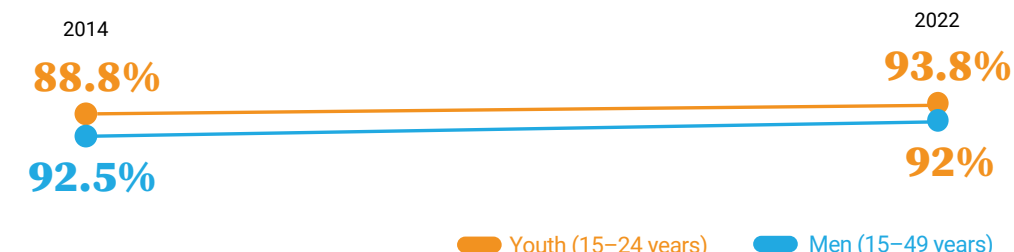
Kuria East

62.7%

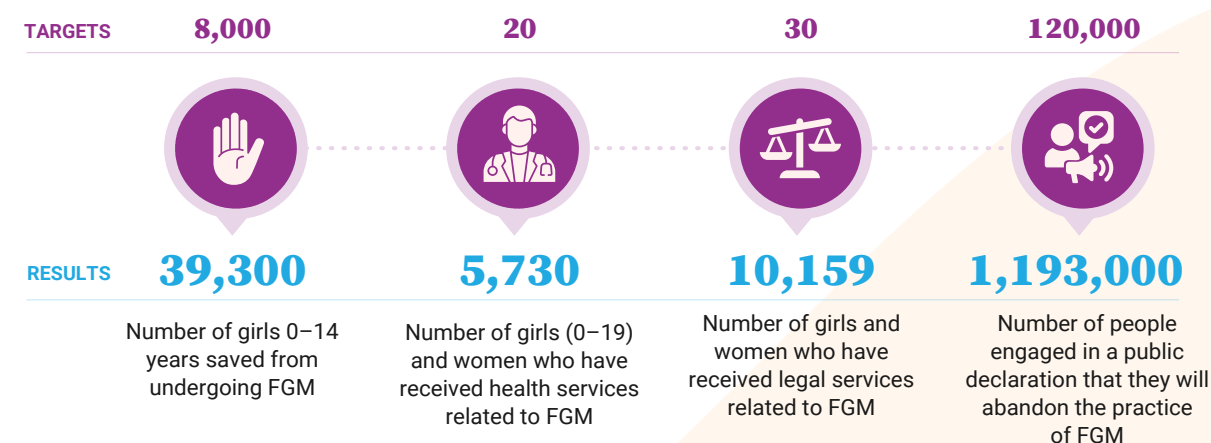
Kuria West

Outcome expectancies: No data available.

### Proportion of individuals who believe FGM should be stopped



### Highlights of 2024 programme results



### Spotlighted interventions

#### Promoting girls' agency

→ The Joint Programme supported mentorship programmes, life skills training and community dialogues to equip 16,453 girls with knowledge of their rights and the dangers of FGM. The establishment of 15 social support groups in high-prevalence counties has provided safe spaces for girls to discuss their challenges, share experiences and collectively resist harmful practices. In addition, survivor-led movements have played crucial roles in amplifying girls' voices, particularly through the "FGM MUST END with us; Dear Daughter Campaign", which mobilized over 1,600 survivors to protect younger generations from FGM.

#### Movement-building

→ A survivor-led movement comprising women from northern Kenya formed and brought together 1,600 FGM survivors in the "FGM MUST END with us; Dear Daughter Campaign", led by the Anti-FGM Board. This movement played an instrumental role in reducing new cases of FGM, especially within the Somali community, where prevalence tops 90 per cent.<sup>2</sup> The Joint Programme will continue supporting the campaign in 2025 to maintain momentum in northern Kenya.

<sup>1</sup> Johns Hopkins School of Nursing, Comitato Internazionale per lo Sviluppo dei Popoli and UNICEF (2023). Social and behaviour change baseline on child marriage and FGM in selected counties in Kenya – Survey findings Samburu East County and Kuria District. Unpublished manuscript

<sup>2</sup> Kenya DHS 2022.



## IN-COUNTRY PARTNERS

| Number | List of partners*                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
|--------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 18     | Africa Coordinating Centre for Abandonment of FGM (ACCAF), Anti FGM Board, Brighter Society Initiative, Centre for Enhancing Democracy and Good Governance, Centre for Rights Education and Awareness (CREAW), County Governments (Kisii, Migori, Wajir, T. River, West Pokot, Samburu, Marsabit), Directorate of Public Prosecution, Division of Reproductive Health Ministry of Health, Habiba International Women and Youth Affairs, Illaramatak Community Concerns, Kenya National Human Rights Commission, Marsabit Women Advocacy and Development Organization, Men End FGM Foundation, Network of Adolescents and Youth of Africa, Pastoralist Women for Health and Education, Umoja Development Organization, World Vision Kenya, Youth for a Sustainable World (YSW) |

\* List is a mix of implementing and strategic partners



# Mali

## 2024 SNAPSHOT

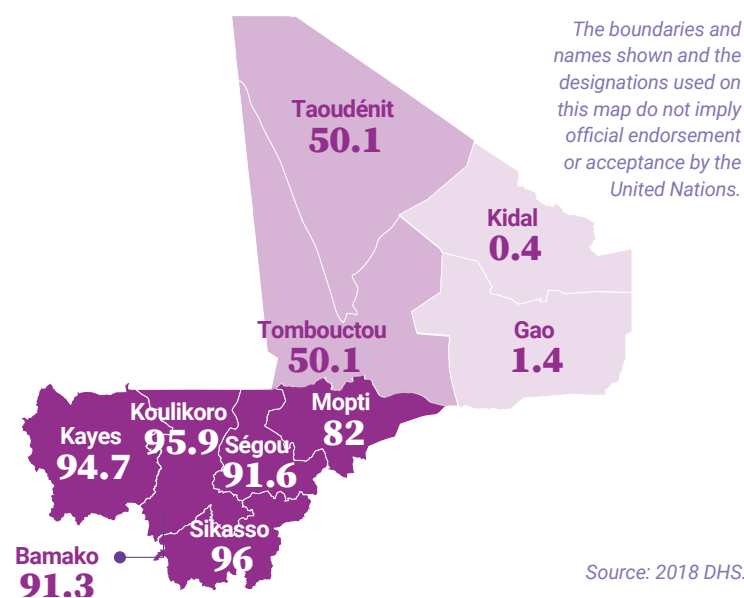
### Sociopolitical context

Mali faces a complex humanitarian crisis, with 6.4 million people needing aid by late 2024 due to conflict, insecurity and climate shocks, compounded by socioeconomic issues. Needs are highest in the northern and central regions, where displacement and limited basic services are prevalent.

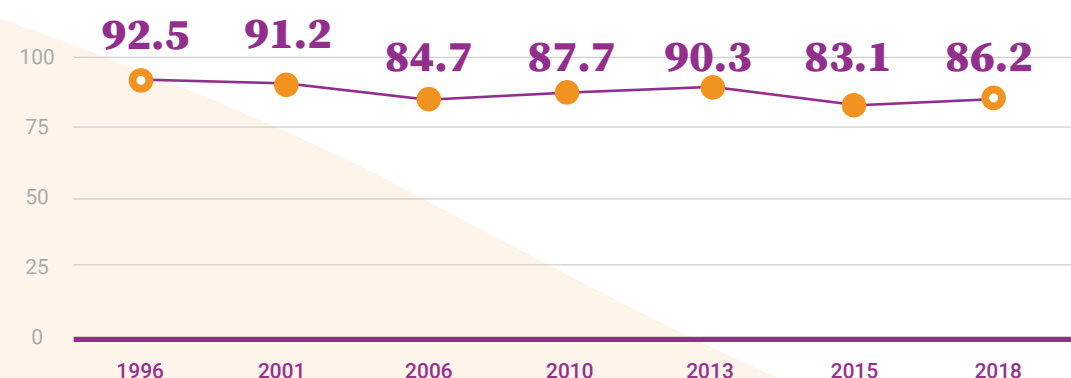
### FGM context

Mali has yet to ratify national female genital mutilation legislation. In 2024, the Government focused its efforts on awareness-building and prevention. Programmatic interventions were negatively impacted by partner disengagement due to political instability and pushback from religious leaders.

Latest subnational FGM prevalence (percentage) among females aged 15–49 years



FGM prevalence (percentage) among females aged 15–19 years from 1996 to 2018



### Social norms (2023 data)<sup>1</sup>

#### Descriptive norm:

82%

of men and women believe that the majority (i.e., more than half) of girls under 5 in their community had undergone FGM.

#### Injunctive norm:

86%

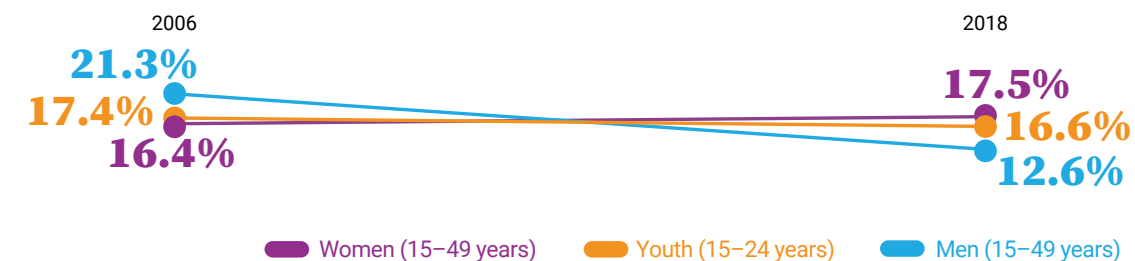
of men and women think their community expects them to continue FGM.

### Outcome expectancies:

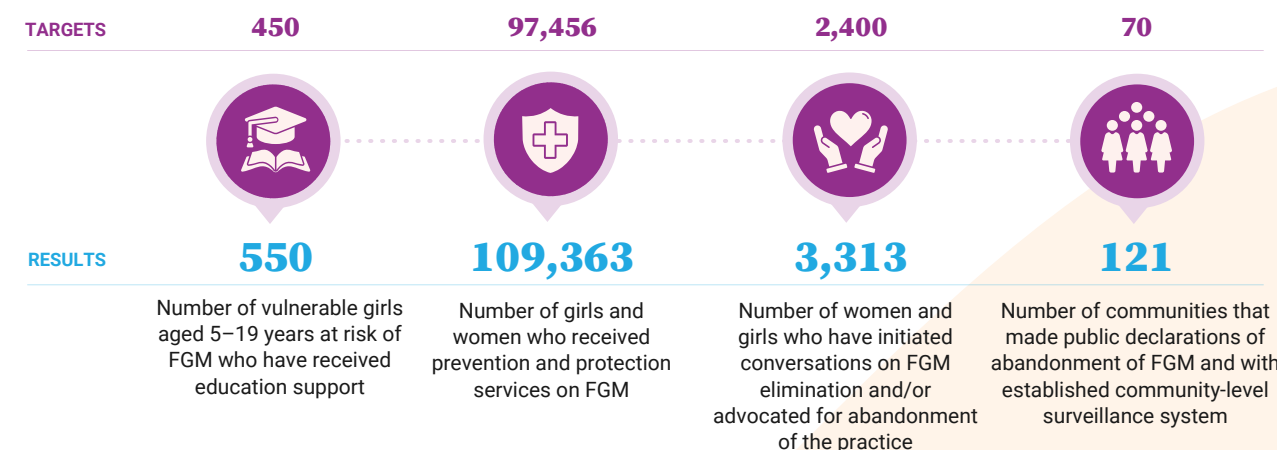
34%

of men and women think they would face sanctions for abandoning FGM.

### Proportion of individuals who believe FGM should be stopped



### Highlights of 2024 programme results



### Spotlighted interventions

#### Movement-building

→ In 2024, 220 people (118 women and 102 men) from the Kayes, Koulikoro, Sikasso, Ségou and Mopti regions and the district of Bamako, including conflict-affected areas such as Gao and Timbuktu, gained advocacy skills. Four youth platforms were launched in Gao, Kayes, Sikasso, and Timbuktu, developing 12 action plans for advocacy and peer education on abandoning FGM and Gender-Based Violence (GBV). Young leaders have also created communications channels such as WhatsApp groups and Facebook pages and tapped into U-Report to mobilize their peers.

#### Promoting girls' agency

→ A ludo-educational (use of games in a learning framework) mass communications approach engaged 322,607 individuals on FGM, child marriage and promoting gender equality in the Koulikoro, Ségou, Kayes, Dioila, Timbuktu and Mopti regions. Various community-based activities, such as mass sensitization, training sessions, radio broadcasts, forum theater and dialogues, addressed taboos and prompted constructive discussions and a better understanding of the harms of FGM. Twelve girls were protected from FGM and 111 girls from child marriage through community management committees. Moreover, over 121 communities officially abandoned FGM, creating an enabling environment to promote girls' agency.

<sup>1</sup> ODI Global, Plan International and UNICEF (2023). A quantitative analysis of social norms relating to FGM/C and child marriage in Mali. Unpublished manuscript.



## IN-COUNTRY PARTNERS

| Number | List of partners*                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
|--------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 8      | Academy of Teaching (AE) and the Pedagogical Animation Centers (CAP) of Kayes, Nioro, Koulikoro, Sikasso, Ségou, Bamako, Association for the Progress and Defense of Women's Rights (APDF), Association for the Promotion of Rights and the Well-being of the Family (APSEF), Malian Association for the Monitoring and Guidance of Traditional Practices (AMSOPT), Ministry for the Promotion of Women, Children and the Family (MPFEF), National Program for the Abandonment of GBV (PNVBG), Reference Health Centers (CSREF), Regional Directorates for the Promotion of Women, Children and the Family of Kayes, Nioro, Koulikoro, Sikasso, Ségou, Bamako, Tostan |

\* List is a mix of implementing and strategic partners



# Mauritania

2024 SNAPSHOT

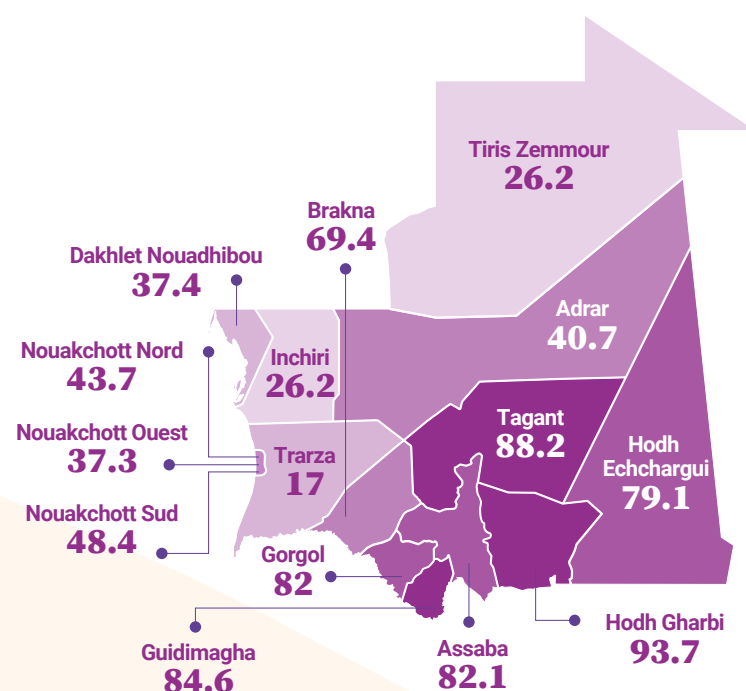
## Sociopolitical context

In 2024, Mauritania hosted 214,000 refugees, with 104,000 in Mberra camp and 111,000 in Fassala and Megve. Additionally, 106,000 existing and 86,000 new arrivals were hosted within communities, straining local resources, including prevention and response services.

## FGM context

Female genital mutilation prevalence in Mauritania has wide regional variations. Though prevalence has declined among girls aged 14–19 over the past three decades, persistent regional hotspots necessitate intensified interventions to accelerate change.

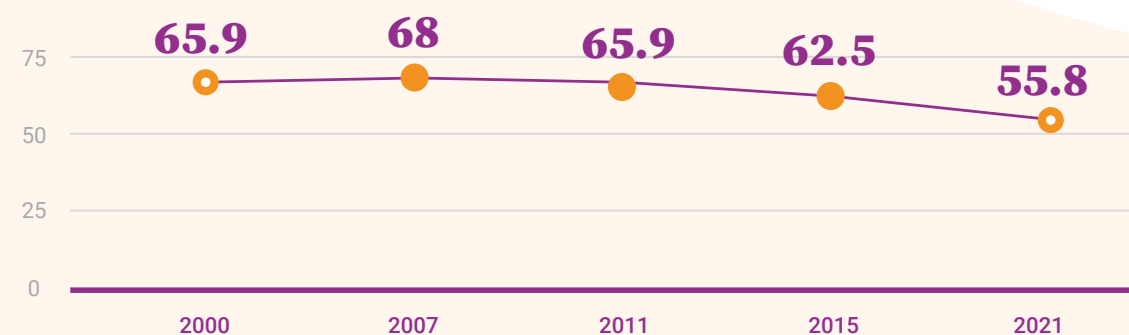
Latest subnational FGM prevalence (percentage) among females aged 15–49 years



The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

Source: 2019 - 2021 DHS.

FGM prevalence (percentage) among females aged 15–19 years from 2000 to 2021

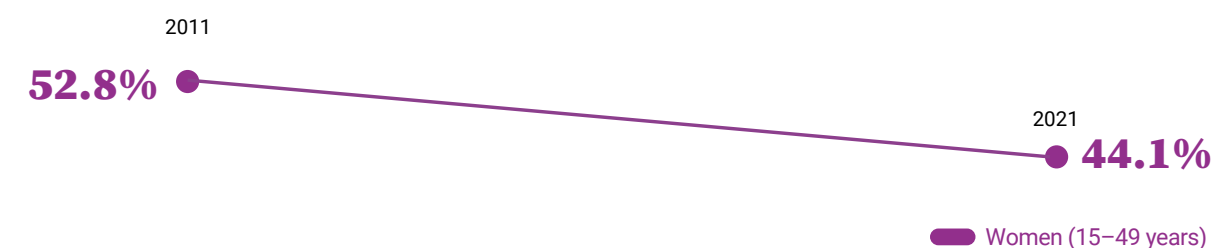


Source: DHS and MICS from 2000 - 2021.

## Social norms

No data available for descriptive and injunctive norms or for outcome expectancies.

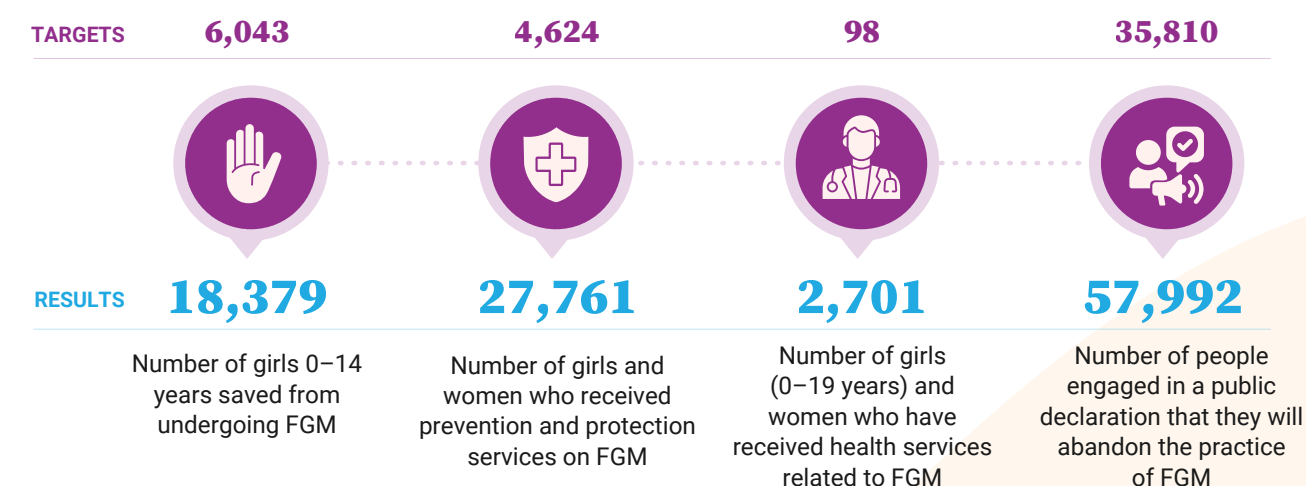
## Proportion of individuals who believe FGM should be stopped



Women (15–49 years)

Source: DHS and MICS from 2011 - 2021.

## Highlights of 2024 programme results



## Spotlighted interventions

### Expanding and intensifying the global influence of the Joint Programme

→ In 2024, an awareness campaign on social media during the week dedicated to zero tolerance for FGM reached 371,060 people. On International Women's Day, a video highlighting the inspiring story of a former traditional practitioner was widely disseminated, achieving 896,956 views.

### Movement-building

→ In 2024, 665 community and religious leaders, along with 100 young people (including 64 girls from civil society), were engaged in the movement to end FGM. In addition, 118 CSOs joined coalitions and networks focused on elimination. There was also strong support from government agencies, including the Ministry of Youth and its Project to Support the Reproductive Health of Youth and Adolescents, the Division of Judicial Protection for Children and the National Unit for Fighting SGBV. Consolidating these efforts for a sustainable, community-driven movement remains challenging. Efforts will continue to leverage local experiences, strengthen community actors' capacities, and build strategic links between national advocacy, social norms change and coordinated community action.



## IN-COUNTRY PARTNERS

| Number | List of partners*                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
|--------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 14     | <p>Act for the Well-Being of Elderly and Disabled Persons (ABEPAD) in Nouakchott South, Childhood and Family / National Unit for the Fight against GBV including FGM, Directorate of Judicial Protection of Children, Coordination of Development Networks in Assaba-Kiffa (CORDAK), Mauritanian Association for the Promotion of the Family (AMPF), Men and Women (AMSDEHF) in Nouakchott North, Ministry of Islamic Affairs/Directorate for the Promotion of Traditional Education, Ministry of Social Action, Ministry of Youth, NGO Actions in Gorgol, NGO Actions in Guidimakha, NGO AMSME in Hodh Chargui, NGO COAN in Hodh Chargui, Organization for the Development of Arid and Semi-Arid Zones in Mauritania (ODZASAM) in Hodh El Gharbi, Sifa Hanki Pinal Hande in Brakna, Support Project for the Reproductive Health of Youth and Adolescents, Rights of Children</p> |

\* List is a mix of implementing and strategic partners



# Nigeria

2024 SNAPSHOT

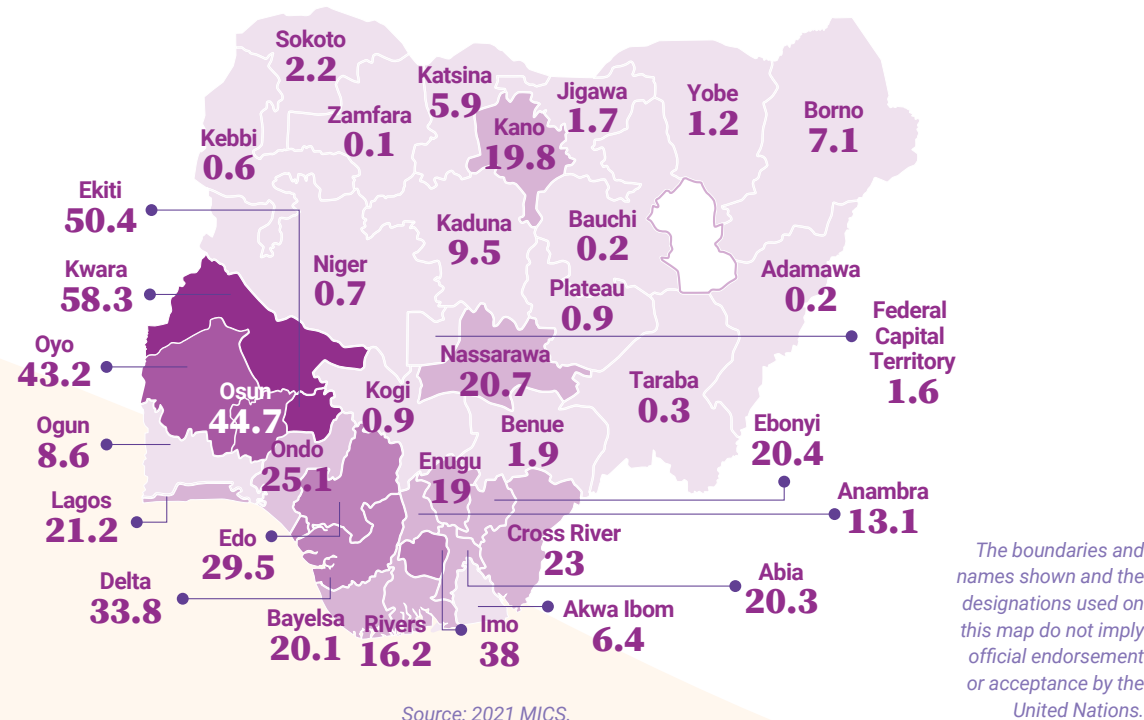
## Sociopolitical context

North-east Nigeria faces a persistent humanitarian crisis due to 14 years of armed conflict in Borno, Adamawa and Yobe states. Over 2 million people are internally displaced, with women and girls at high risk of gender-based violence and children vulnerable to forced recruitment in armed factions. Agricultural disruption has worsened food insecurity, with 4.4 million reached with aid out of the 7.9 million in need in 2024.

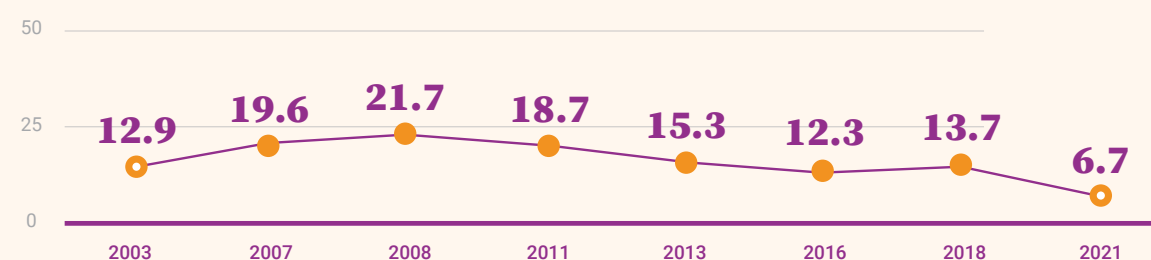
## FGM context

Female genital mutilation drivers include cultural norms and perceived religious obligations. Nigeria's substantial progress in reducing FGM among girls aged 15–19 over the past three decades is a testament to the concerted efforts of the Government and various stakeholders, including CSOs and United Nations organizations, working towards elimination by 2030.

Latest subnational FGM prevalence (percentage) among females aged 15–49 years



FGM prevalence (percentage) among females aged 15–19 years from 2003 to 2021



Source: DHS and MICS from 2003 - 2021.

## Social norms (2024 data)

### Descriptive norm:



of women 15–49 believe most girls aged 10–14 in their community have had a form of FGM.<sup>1</sup>

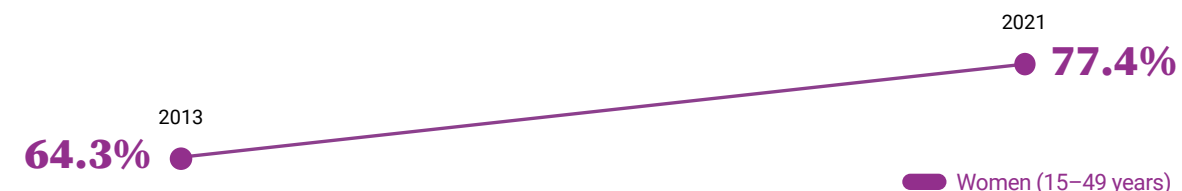
### Injunctive norm:



of women 15–49 believe that their community expects them to continue to practise FGM.<sup>2</sup>

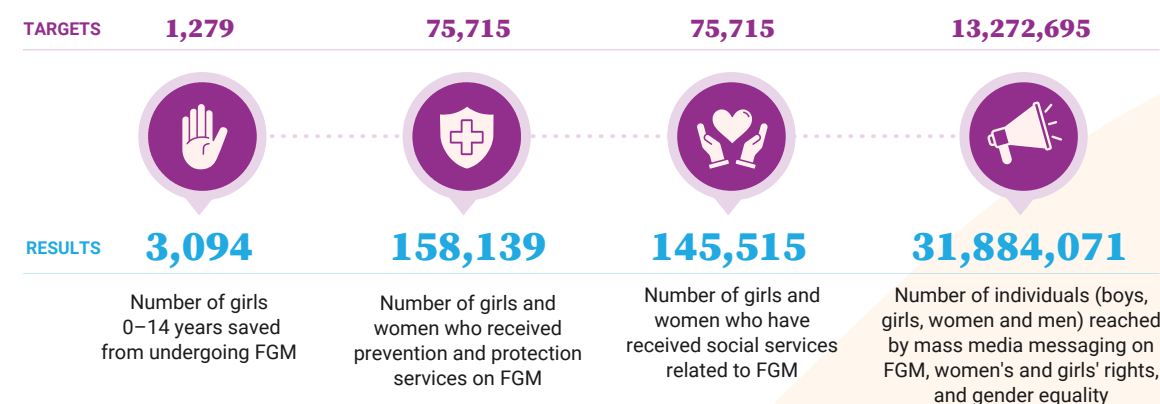
Outcome expectancies: No data available.

## Proportion of individuals who believe FGM should be stopped



Source: DHS and MICS from 2013 - 2021.

## Highlights of 2024 programme results



## Spotlighted interventions

### Engaging women-led and youth-led organizations

➔ A total of 7,871 adolescent girls, including 135 with disabilities from 100 communities across five Nigerian states, received life skills, and sessions on advocacy, leadership and community engagement training to become influential advocates and community champions. These youth champions encouraged peers and 24,500 family members to reject FGM in Ebonyi State. Their efforts led to over 30,000 community pledges and 138 FGM case reports, and prevented FGM for approximately 114 newborns. The Joint Programme also supported activities to strengthen advocacy skills for 23 grassroots organizations in Oyo and Ekiti states.

### Movement-building

➔ Positive masculinity initiatives through male champions and the Male Engagement Alliance organized sports tournaments and community dialogues to redefine masculinity and promote men as allies in ending FGM. Male-led community-based organizations engaged 39,469 men and boys in sessions that addressed the effects of FGM and importance of gender equality. Nearly 458,000 individuals through the [Movement for Good to End FGM](#) denounced the practice and pledged to actively support elimination. The movement globally obtained more than 6.5 million individual pledges.

1,2 UNFPA, Population & Reproductive Health Institute at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health (2024). Female Genital Mutilation Module Pilot Results. Unpublished manuscript.



## IN-COUNTRY PARTNERS

| Number | List of partners*                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
|--------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 26     | Action Health Incorporated, Balm in Gilead Foundation for Sustainable Development - Ekiti State, Centre for Comprehensive Promotion of Reproductive Health, Education as a Vaccine, Ekiti State Ministry of Health, Ekiti State Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development, Federal Ministry of Health, Federal Ministry of Women Affairs, Federation of Muslim Women Association of Nigeria (FOMWAN), Gender Relevance Initiative Promotion, Ekiti State, Ministry of Women Affairs - Ebonyi State, Ministry of Women Affairs - Imo state, National Council on Women Society, One Life Initiative - Oyo state, Osun State Ministry of Health, Osun State Ministry of Women, Children and Social Affairs, Oyo State Ministry of Women Affairs, Oyo State Primary Health Care Board, Tomorrow is a girl initiative - Ebonyi State, The Civil Resource Development and Documentation Centre (CIRDDOC) - Ebonyi State, The New Generation Girls and Women Development Initiative, Trailblazer Initiative Nigeria - Oyo state, Virgin Heart Foundation - Imo State, Value Female Network - Osun State, Value Re-Orientation for Community Enhancement (VARCE) - Osun State, Youthub Africa |

\* List is a mix of implementing and strategic partners



# Senegal

## 2024 SNAPSHOT

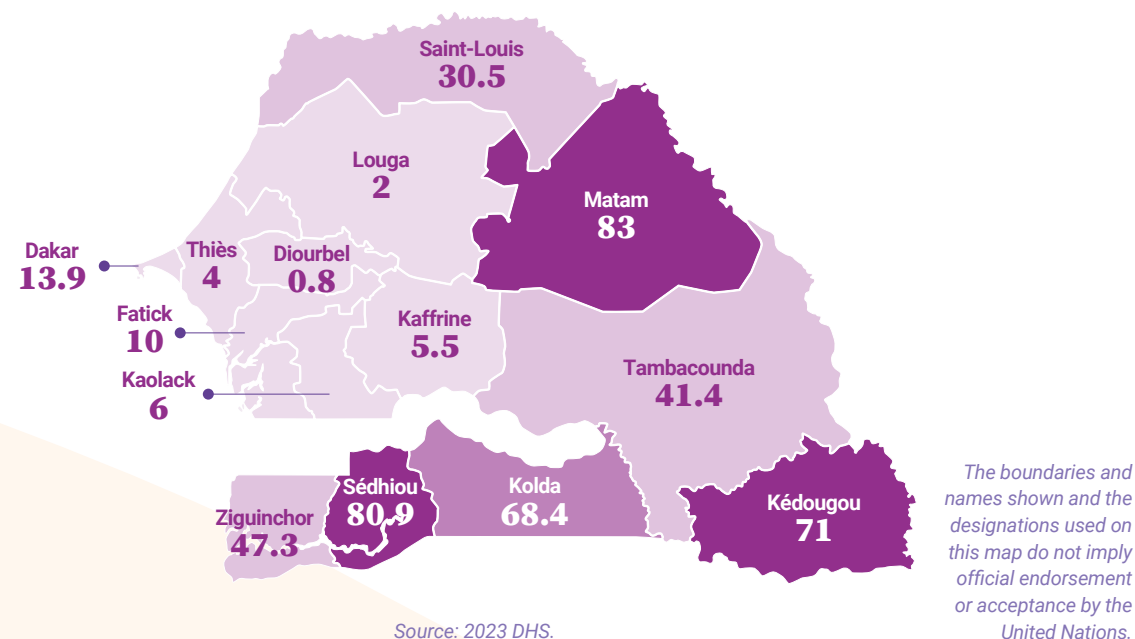
### Sociopolitical context

Senegal is one of Africa's most stable electoral democracies, characterized by peaceful transitions of power between rival parties since 2000. In 2024, two elections ushered in a new President followed by the appointment of new ministers as well as a new Parliament. The process delayed Joint Programme work with governmental entities. A partnership with the new Family Directorate within the Ministry of Family and Solidarity facilitated implementation.

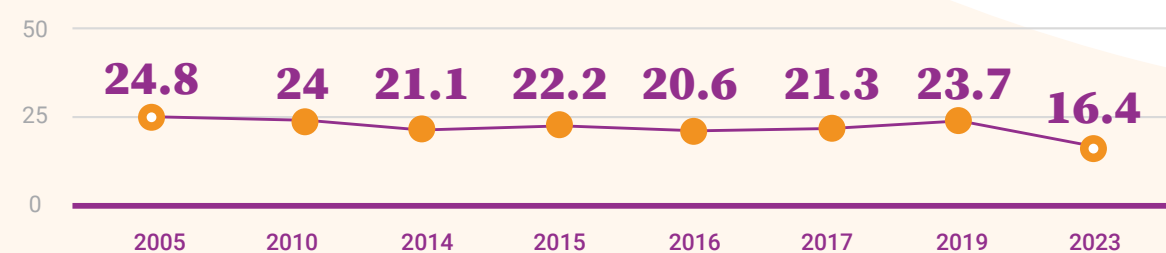
### FGM context

Anecdotal evidence suggests increasing secrecy and the performance of female genital mutilation at earlier ages. The current trend indicates that Senegal will not meet the target of eliminating FGM by 2030.

Latest subnational FGM prevalence (percentage) among females aged 15–49 years



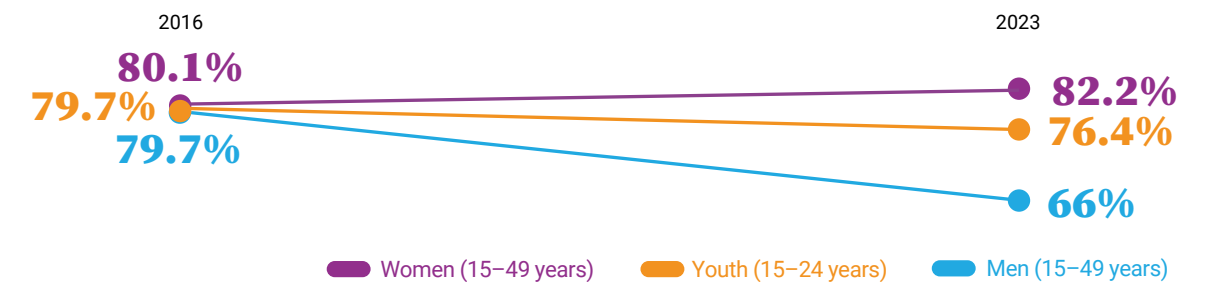
FGM prevalence (percentage) among females aged 15–19 years from 2005 to 2023



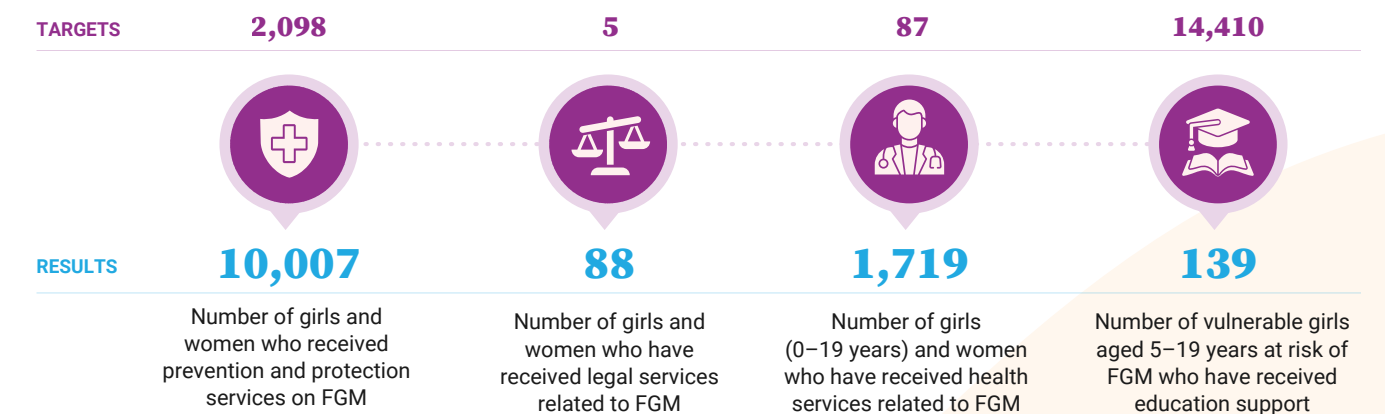
### Social norms

No data available for descriptive and injunctive norms or for outcome expectancies.

### Proportion of individuals who believe FGM should be stopped



### Highlights of 2024 programme results



### Spotlighted interventions

#### Movement-building

→ In Ziguinchor, 22 subnational organizations participated in monitoring and alert units. Following communications and leadership training, 107 youth and women-led community coalitions were mobilized to eliminate FGM. In Matam, six girls' clubs were revived for advocacy against harmful practices. Under the Ministry of Family's leadership, the Joint Programme and local partners developed a joint advocacy plan, mobilizing eight youth networks, three women's groups and three media/religious leader networks in high-prevalence regions like Sédhiou and Matam.

#### Promoting girls' agency

→ The Joint Programme supported 792 girls to build skills in blogging and digital communications using Scratch software. These girls created animations with FGM and adolescent sexual and reproductive health messages, launching three digital campaigns and shared videos via mobile phones. This initiative helped engage more young people in Kolda, Matam and Tambacounda through social networks like Facebook, WhatsApp, TikTok, YouTube and Instagram. In addition, 36,466 girls and young women actively participated in social and behaviour change activities including reproductive health education and girls' clubs, covering FGM-related issues and life skills.



## IN-COUNTRY PARTNERS

| Number | List of partners*                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
|--------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 24     | <p>Association des juristes sénégalaises, Coalition Nationale des Associations et organisations en Faveur de l'Enfance (CONAFE), Comité Départemental de Protection de l'Enfant (CDPE) Tambacounda, Comité Départemental de Protection de l'Enfant Bakel, Comité Départemental de Protection de l'Enfant Bounkiling, Comité Départemental de Protection de l'Enfant Goudiry, Comité Départemental de Protection de l'Enfant Goudomp, Comité Départemental de Protection de l'Enfant Kolda, Comité Départemental de Protection de l'Enfant Koumpentoum, Comité Départemental de Protection de l'Enfant Kédougou, Comité Départemental de Protection de l'Enfant Matam, Comité Départemental de Protection de l'Enfant Médina Yéro Foula (MYF), Comité Départemental de Protection de l'Enfant Salémata, Comité Départemental de Protection de l'Enfant Saraya, Comité Départemental de Protection de l'Enfant Sédhiou, Comité Départemental de Protection de l'Enfant Vélingara, Direction de la protection sociale des jeunes (DPSJ), Enda Jeneusse Action, Grandmother Project, Groupe pour l' Etude et l'enseignement de la population, Ministère de la Famille et des Solidarités/Direction de la Famille, Réseau des jeunes pour la promotion de l'abandon des MGF/ME, Society For Women and Aids in Africa Senegal (SWAA/Sénégal), Tostan</p> |

\* List is a mix of implementing and strategic partners



# Somalia

2024 SNAPSHOT

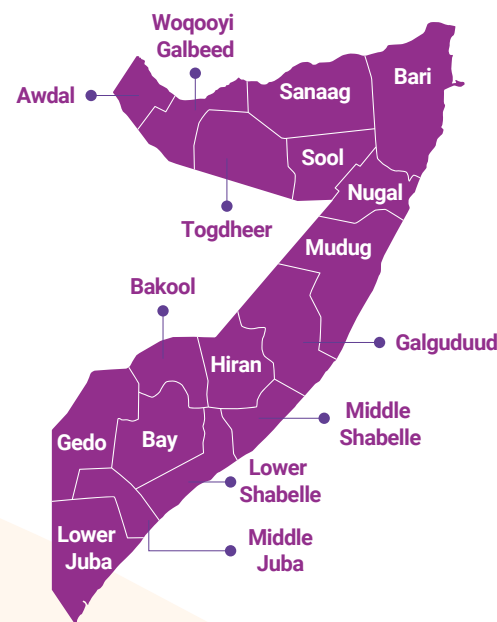
## Sociopolitical context

Somalia's humanitarian crisis is among the world's most complex, driven by cycles of internal conflict and climate shocks that generate displacement and undermine development. The cumulative effects destroy livelihoods, leaving millions of vulnerable people in urgent need of assistance. Many communities initially displaced by drought or conflict have been unrooted a second or third time by floods or renewed violence. Repeated displacements have left many in need of shelter, food, health, protection and livelihood support.

In 2024, conflict was the main driver of internal displacement, accounting for 53 per cent of the 477,000 people uprooted between January and November 2024. Overall, 3.5 million people remain displaced across the country.<sup>1</sup>

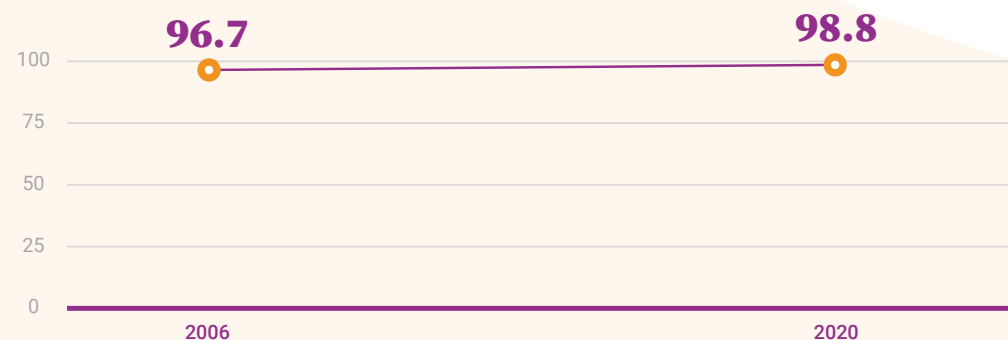
## FGM context

Latest subnational FGM prevalence (percentage) among females aged 15–49 years (99%)



Source: 2020 SHDS.

FGM prevalence (percentage) among females aged 15–19 years from 2006 to 2020



Source: MICS and other national sources from 2006 - 2020.

## Social norms

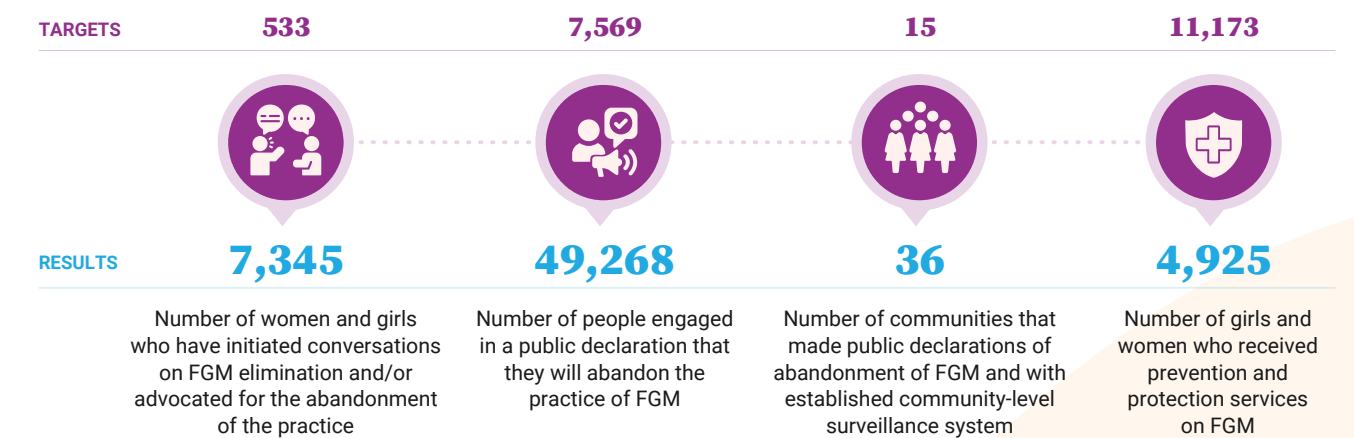
No data available for descriptive and injunctive norms or for outcome expectancies.

## Proportion of individuals who believe FGM should be stopped



Source: MICS and other national sources from 2006 - 2020.

## Highlights of 2024 programme results



## Spotlighted interventions

### Promoting girls' agency

→ In 2024, the Safe Schools Initiative in Kismayo and Mogadishu, with Joint Programme support, provided learning on Gender-Based Violence (GBV), leadership and harmful traditional practices in structured school clubs and peer education for over 2,300 adolescents. More than 3,000 people, including 850 adolescent girls, participated in dialogue sessions based on the Communities Care methodology in Afmadow, Baidoa and Garowe. The dialogues provided spaces for girls and their families to challenge harmful norms and foster collective commitment to ending FGM.

### Movement-building

→ The Somalia Federal Government's constitutional review early in 2024 proposed changes to the articles on FGM prohibition and decreased the age of maturity from 18 to 15, a pushback that threatens progress on the rights and protection of children. The Joint Programme played a key role in supporting local CSOs, including women-led organizations, and selected women parliamentarians to carry out strong and coordinated advocacy. As a result, members of the constitutional committee stopped the proposed changes.



## IN-COUNTRY PARTNERS

| Number | List of partners*                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
|--------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 20     | Agency for Minority Rights and Development (AMARD), Galmudug and Puntland line ministries, Hope in Life International (HiLI), Humanitarian Integrity for Women Action (HIWA), Ifrah Foundation (IFF), Ministry of Employment, Social and Family Affairs of the Republic of Somaliland (MESAF), MoFHRD (FGS), MoWHRD Jubbaland, National Union of Somali Journalists (NUSOJ), New Ways Organization (NWO), Northern Frontier Youth League (NoFYL), Save Somali Women & Children (SSWC), Somalia Community Concern (SCC), Somali Midwifery Association (SOMA), Somali Women Development Center (SWDC), SUDHURO, TAAKULO NGO, Tadamun Social Society (TASS), Women's Action Advocacy Progress Organisation (WAAPO), Youth Peer Education Network (Puntland Y-PEER) |

\* List is a mix of implementing and strategic partners



# Sudan

2024 SNAPSHOT

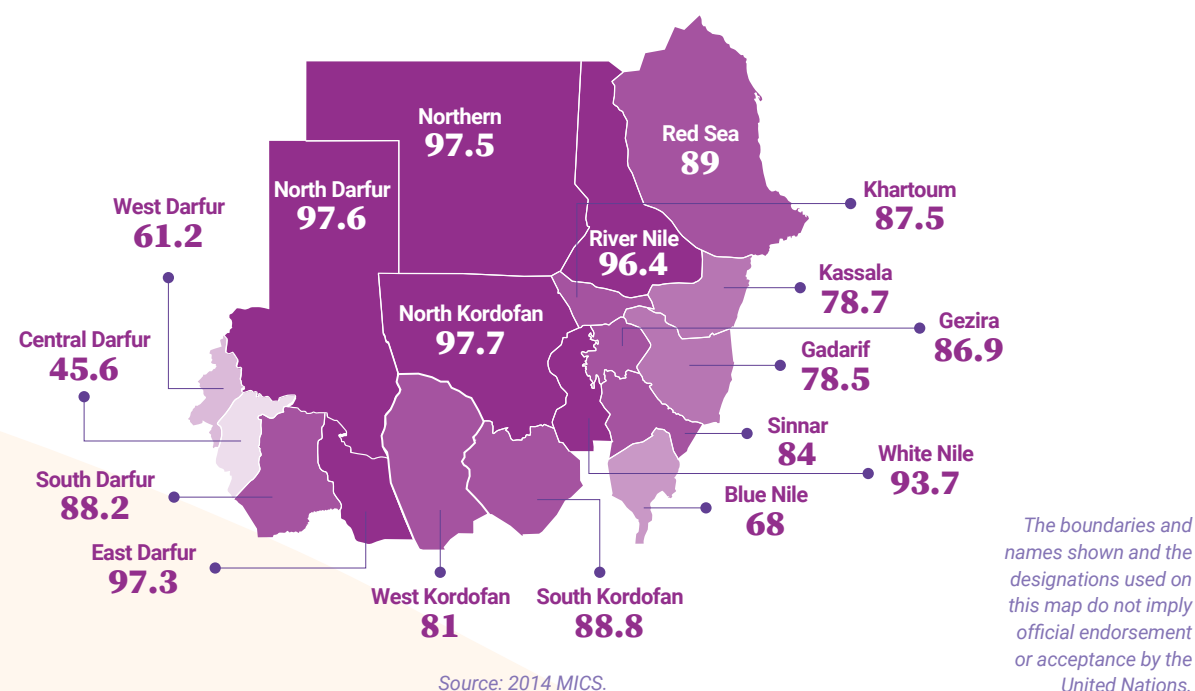
## Sociopolitical context

Since April 2023, Sudan has faced a severe humanitarian crisis due to conflict between the Sudanese Armed Forces and the Rapid Support Forces, leading to nearly 9 million internally displaced people and over 3 million refugees. Two thirds of the population, including 16 million children, urgently needs humanitarian assistance, with widespread food insecurity and confirmed famine in several areas. Women and girls face increased risks of conflict-related sexual violence.

## FGM context

Programmes addressing female genital mutilation and Gender-Based Violence (GBV) continue, focusing on training health workers, supporting survivors and integrating care within health services.

Latest subnational FGM prevalence (percentage) among females aged 15–49 years



FGM prevalence (percentage) among females aged 15–19 years from 1990 to 2014



## Social norms (2017 data)

### Descriptive norm:

48.5%

of men and women believe that most people in their community practise FGM.<sup>1</sup>

### Injunctive norm:

44.8%

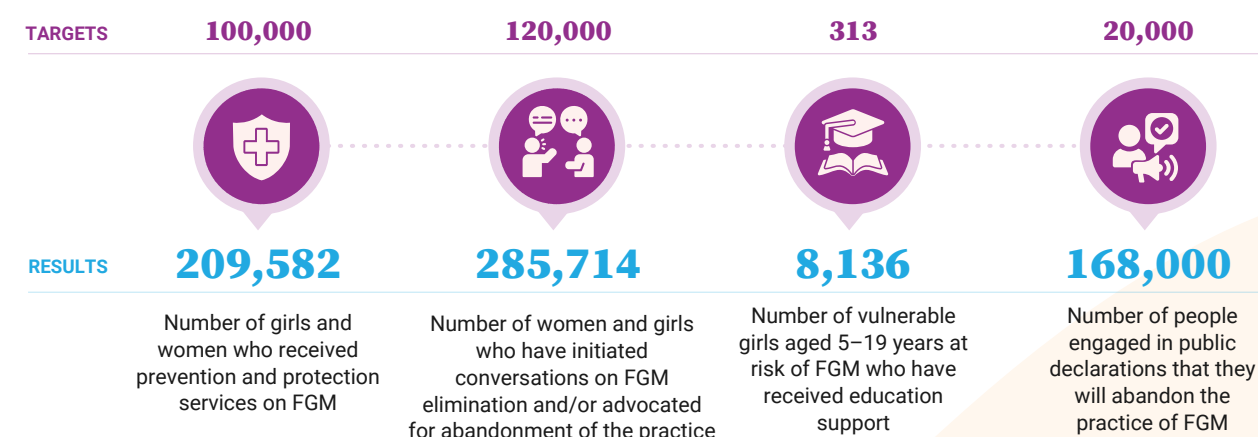
of men and women believe that Sudanese society in general considers it appropriate to practise FGM.<sup>2</sup>

Outcome expectancies: Data not available.

## Proportion of individuals who believe FGM should be stopped

52.8% of women believe that FGM should be stopped.<sup>3</sup>

## Highlights of 2024 programme results



## Spotlighted interventions

### Promoting girls' agency

→ Extensive community outreach reached over 300,000 individuals. It comprised awareness-raising sessions covering health, sexual and reproductive health and various GBV-related topics, including the impacts of conflict and coping with trauma. Social workers fostered community-driven solutions and encouraged reporting of GBV. A total of 31 Women and Girls Safe Spaces offered comprehensive GBV and sexual and reproductive health services and skills training for financial empowerment. Additionally, 30 girls' clubs were established to provide safe platforms for young girls to connect, share experiences and enhance their well-being.

### Expanding and intensifying the global influence of the Joint Programme

→ Youth and women-led organizations are often the sole providers of critical humanitarian aid. The Joint Programme has actively supported and mobilized groups like Y-Peer to offer FGM and GBV prevention and response services. In addition, it provided capacity-building, training and technical support to 11 youth and women's groups across Kassala, Gedarif, Blue Nile and White Nile states. In total, over 40 formal and informal youth groups have been equipped to drive significant gender-transformative changes related to FGM, child marriage and other forms of gender inequality.

<sup>1,2</sup> Evans, W. D., Donahue, C., Snider, J., Bedri, N., Elhoussein, T. A., & Elamin, S. A. (2019). The Saleema initiative in Sudan to abandon female genital mutilation: Outcomes and dose response effects. PLoS One, 14(3), e0213380.

<sup>3</sup> Sudan MICS 2014.



Photo credit: © UNFPA Sudan

## IN-COUNTRY PARTNERS

| Number | List of partners*                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
|--------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 17     | Al-Alag center, Alight, CAFA Organization, Ministry of Education - Girls Education, NADA Alazhar, National Planning organization (NPO), Near East Foundation, Plan International - Sudan, Rakeyzah Interactive, SADAGAAT Charity Organization, State Council of Child Welfare - SCCWs, State Ministry of Social Welfare - White Nile, Blue Nile, Kassala states, Sudan Family Planning Association, Universities (Dongola, Merawi, Kordofan and Dilling), Women for Peace and Development Organization, Y-Peers, Youth Mechanisms |

\* List is a mix of implementing and strategic partners



# The Gambia

2024 SNAPSHOT

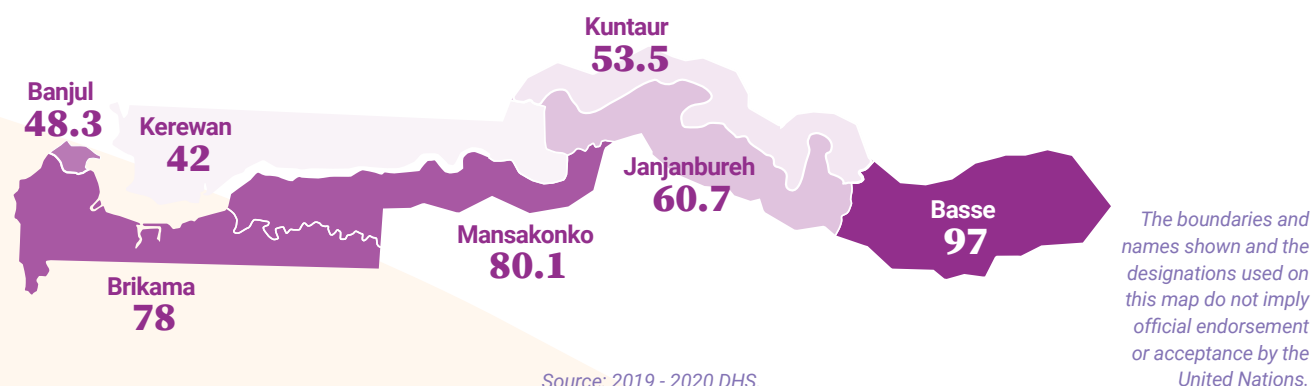
## Sociopolitical context

In 2024, The Gambia continued its democratic transition, marked by constitutional reforms. While economic growth is accelerating and extreme poverty is declining, significant socioeconomic challenges persist.

## FGM context

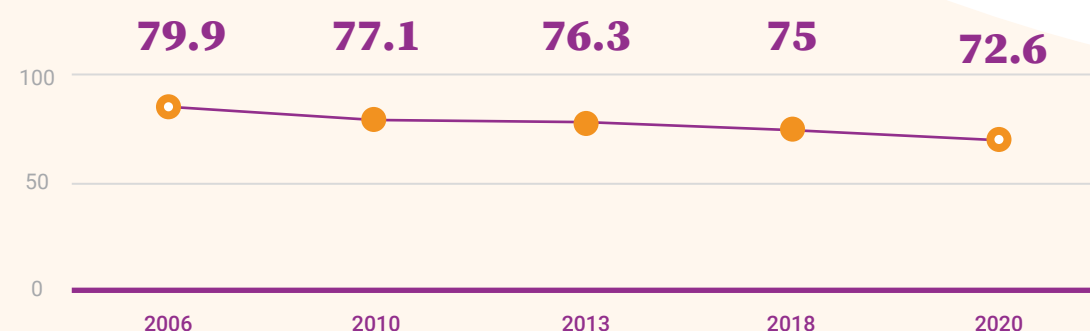
Female genital mutilation prevalence decline among girls aged 15–19 has stalled for the last 30 years, necessitating intensified interventions. In addition, there is increasing pushback against FGM elimination efforts. In February 2024, a private bill sought to repeal the 2015 law criminalizing FGM, which sparked a national debate. In July 2024, 35 National Assembly members voted to maintain the ban, while 17 voted to repeal it; six were absent. This outcome resulted from a CSO coalition's multilayered advocacy strategy targeting policymakers, communities, health workers, the media, men and boys, and religious leaders. On 24 July 2024, however, a National Assembly member, four CSOs and three women challenged the constitutionality of the anti-FGM law in the Supreme Court, citing violations of cultural and religious rights. The Joint Programme is assisting the defence by supporting CSO meetings and providing technical aid to the Female Lawyers Association Gambia as an interested party or amicus curiae. The Joint Programme global team also coordinates a multi-level United Nations technical working group on The Gambia that reports to the Deputy Secretary-General-led taskforce on The Gambia.

Latest subnational FGM prevalence (percentage) among females aged 15–49 years



Source: 2019 - 2020 DHS.

FGM prevalence (percentage) among females aged 15–19 years from 2006 to 2020

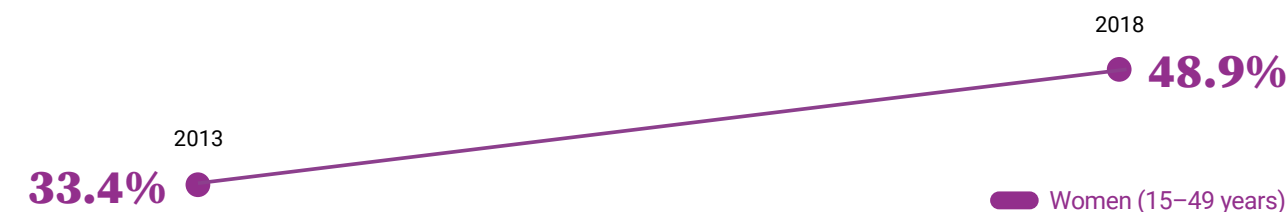


Source: DHS and MICS from 2006 - 2020.

## Social norms

No data available for descriptive and injunctive norms or for outcome expectancies.

## Proportion of individuals who believe FGM should be stopped



Source: DHS and MICS from 2013 - 2018.

## Highlights of 2024 programme results



## Spotlighted interventions

### Promoting girls' agency

→ The Joint Programme partnered with CSOs to conduct workshops in nine schools and sponsor the Fajara Disruptive Lab to empower adolescent girls. Reaching 626 in-school girls, the workshops provided education, awareness, advocacy and skills training focused on leadership, bodily autonomy and the harmful effects of FGM. The programme equipped girls with the knowledge and confidence to discuss and advocate for FGM elimination.

### Movement-building

→ The Joint Programme supported a CSO coalition, led by the Network Against Gender-Based Violence (GBV) and Association of Non-Governmental Organizations, that spearheaded efforts to stop the repeal of the FGM law in the lead-up to the July 2024 parliamentary vote. Significant community outreach, awareness campaigns and advocacy with National Assembly members took place. The programme also backed youth initiatives, such as the Youth Parliament, Children's National Assembly and community football matches, reaching over 1,000 adolescents. With Joint Programme support, the LAHIDO (Promise) Project in the Upper River Region raised FGM and child marriage awareness in 20 communities, reaching over 800 people. It empowered 15 youth through theatre training, secured commitments from 60 parents and reached over 1,000 listeners via radio.



## IN-COUNTRY PARTNERS

| Number | List of partners*                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
|--------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 24     | Beakang Organization, Catch Them Young, Child Protection Alliance, Child Fund The Gambia, Children's National Assembly, Forum for African Women Educationalists Gambia (FAWEGAM), Gambia Committee on Traditional Practices Affecting the Health of Women and Children (GAMCOTRAP), Girls Pride, Girls Talk, Men for Equality, Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Welfare, Network Against Gender based Violence (NGBV), Nova Scotia Gambia Association, Paradise Foundation, Peace Ambassadors, Safe Hands for Girls, The Association of Non-Governmental Organization (TANGO), The Girls Agenda, The Woman Boss, Think Young Women, Tostan, Wassu Kafo, Women in Leadership and liberation (WILL), Youth Parliament |

\* List is a mix of implementing and strategic partners



# Uganda

2024 SNAPSHOT

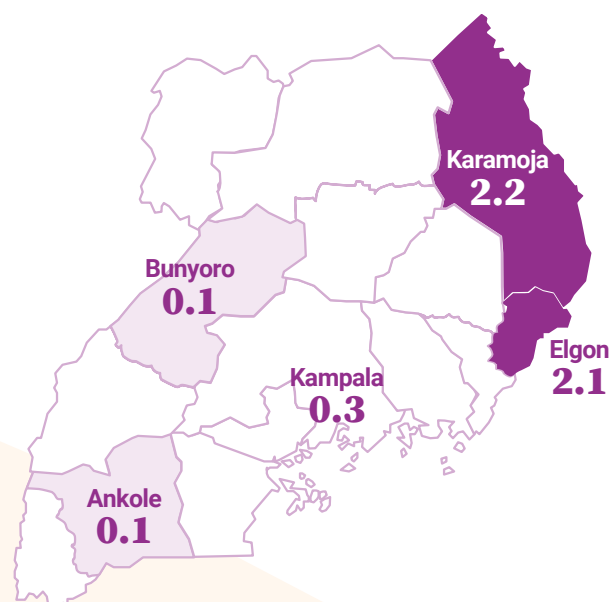
## Sociopolitical context

Uganda continues to face an ongoing influx of refugees from neighbouring countries, particularly the Democratic Republic of the Congo and South Sudan. These population movements have increased pressures on existing resources and public services. The country is grappling with food insecurity exacerbated by climate change, economic instability and infrastructural deficits. Various health concerns, including outbreaks of diseases and the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, pose ongoing risks to the population.

## FGM context

Female genital mutilation is practised mainly among the Pokot, Sabiny, Tepeth, and Kadam communities in eastern Uganda, specifically in the Bugisu and Karamoja regions bordering Kenya. There are reports of FGM in Kampala and some districts hosting refugees from Eritrea, Ethiopia, Somalia and Sudan.

### Latest subnational FGM prevalence (percentage) among females aged 15–49 years



Source: 2022 DHS.

The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

### FGM prevalence (percentage) among females aged 15–19 years from 2006 to 2016



Source: DHS from 2006 - 2016.

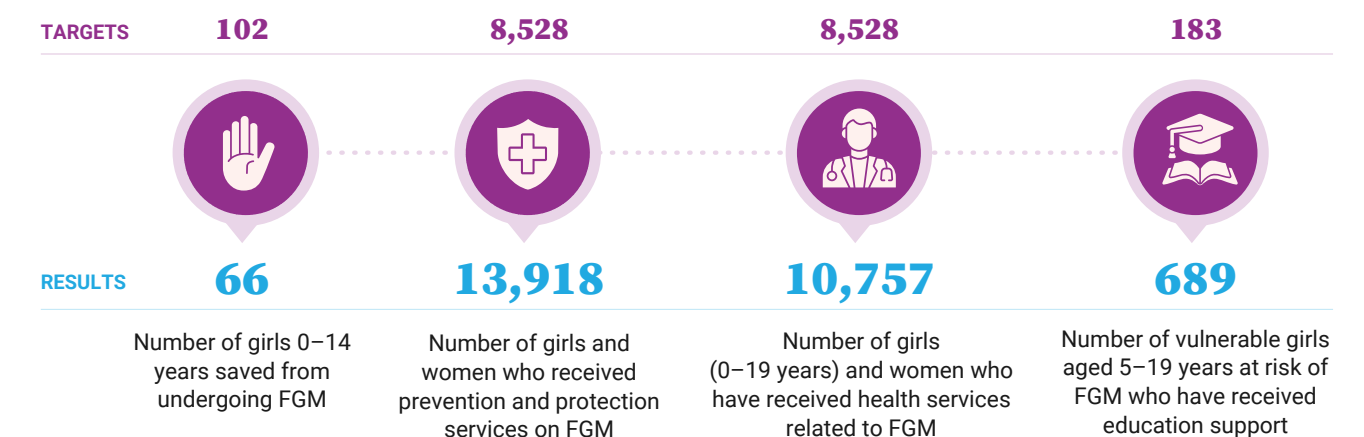
## Social norms

No data available for descriptive and injunctive norms or for outcome expectancies.

## Proportion of individuals who believe FGM should be stopped

**82.8%** of women believe that FGM should be stopped.<sup>1</sup>

## Highlights of 2024 programme results



## Spotlighted interventions

### Expanding and intensifying the global influence of the Joint Programme

→ Uganda's leadership and collaboration with the East African Community and East African Legislative Assembly shaped policies and legal frameworks for cross-border FGM elimination. High-profile events, including the Zero Tolerance Day Symposium and cultural festivals, have provided international platforms to showcase Uganda's progress and challenges, drawing attention and support. Strategic partnerships with development agencies such as the International Development Law Organization and the Austrian Embassy have bolstered the visibility and credibility of the Joint Programme, reinforcing its role as a key player in the global movement to end FGM.

### Financing with diversified funding mechanisms

→ The Joint Programme partners with government initiatives, such as the Parish Development Model and financial inclusion programmes within community interventions, including adolescent clubs and community groups. This opens long-term economic alternatives for vulnerable girls and women, and strengthens the resilience of individuals and families. In 12 clubs in the districts of Amudat, Kween, Bukwo, Moroto, Nakapiripirit and Kapchorwa, 350 young women gained livelihood training and village savings and loan associations. An additional 350 trained adolescents started livelihood-generating activities (vegetable-growing, poultry-raising) to support education costs. Sanitary pads and scholastic materials were provided as well as peer support to mobilize girls to return to and stay in school.

<sup>1</sup> 2011 DHS.

# END FGM



## IN-COUNTRY PARTNERS

| Number | List of partners*                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
|--------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 50     | Action Aid International Uganda, AfriYAN Uganda Chapter, Amudat District Local Government, Benet Women Association, Binyiny Church of Uganda, Binyiny Mosque, Body of Christ, Branch Women, BRAC, Bukwo Community Development Initiative, Bukwo District Local Government, Bukwo Gender-Based Champions, Cheberen Youth Mission, Community Action for Rural Development, Community Development Initiative, Creation Steppers, EASSI, Global Youth Consortium, Global Youth Consortium on Ending FGM, Integrated Community Network, Kamawo Women in Action, Kapchorwa Women in Development, Kapchorwa Women in Gender Transformation, Kapchorwa Women in Peace, Kapchorwa District Local Government, Kapnarango Chesorukel Women, Kapsinda Church of Uganda, Karamoja Women Umbrella (KAWUO), Kitawoi Joint Women, Kween District Local Government, Kwosir Youth in the Struggle, Light to Community, Masuru Noor Mosque, Mayendelewo, Mengya Youth Movement, Ministry of Gender Labour and Social Development, Ministry of Health, Moroto District Local Government, Musopisiek Empowerment Foundation, Nakapiripirit District Local Government, National Youth Council, Ngagata Catholic Church, Ngeenge Church of Uganda, Nyalil Youth in Development, Sat Kaa Survivors, She Impact Makers, Soy Youth Development Network, Taqwa Mosque, Taragon Lower Women in Development, Toswo Persons with Disability Organization |

\* List is a mix of implementing and strategic partners



# Yemen

## 2024 SNAPSHOT

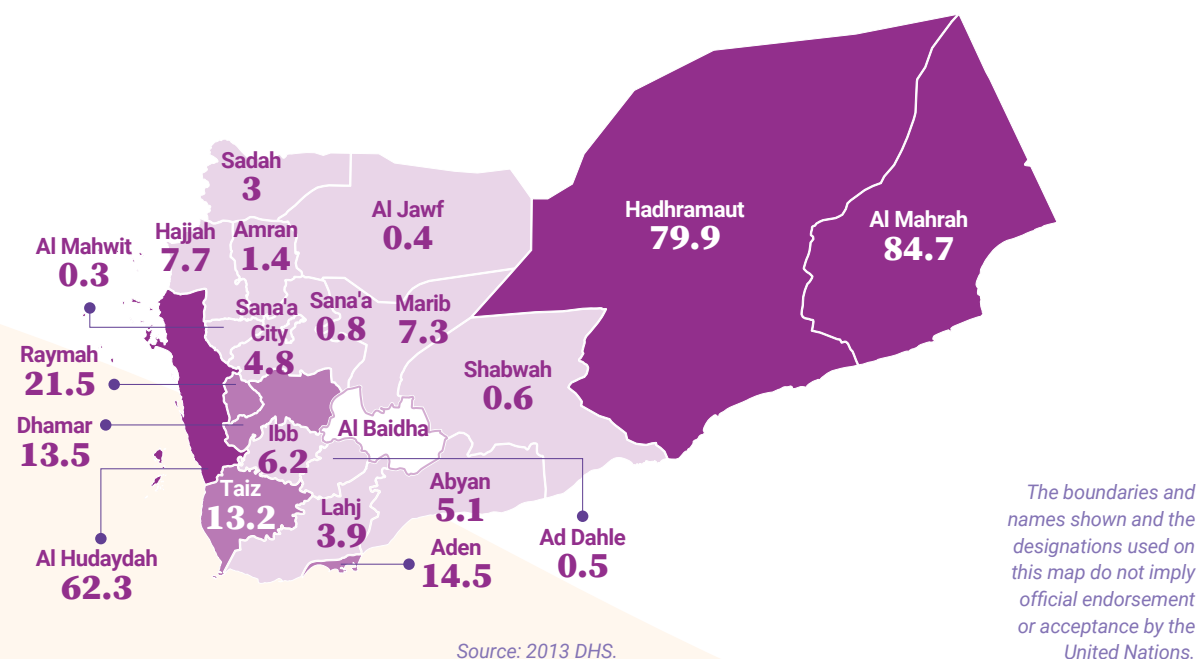
### Sociopolitical context

A truce was largely held in 2024 after a decade-long conflict. However, political fragmentation with two governing administrative systems continues to complicate coordination for humanitarian aid and programmatic implementation. In northern Yemen, women's travel restrictions due to male guardianship rules impede female aid workers and service access. Approximately 19.5 million people (over half the population) need humanitarian assistance due to deteriorating economic conditions, infrastructure damage and collapsed services. Food insecurity affects 17.1 million, and 55 per cent of children suffer chronic malnutrition. Yemen faces the world's fifth-largest displacement crisis, with 4.8 million internally displaced people.

### FGM context

Yemen has yet to ratify a law criminalizing female genital mutilation. The current 2019 national action plan on FGM acknowledges it as a human rights violation.

Latest subnational FGM prevalence (percentage) among females aged 15–49 years



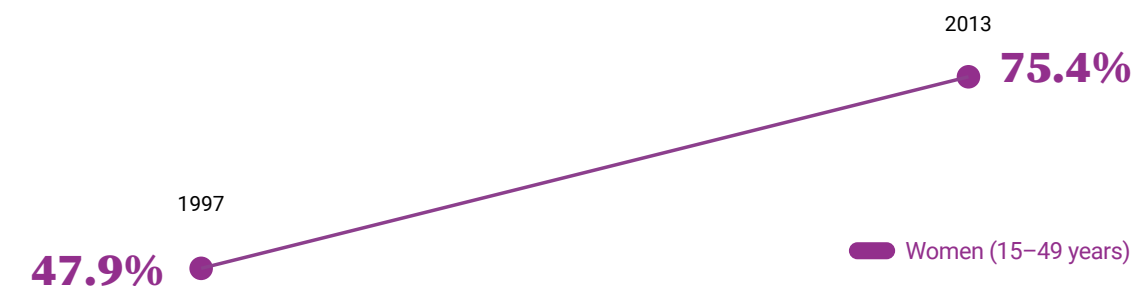
FGM prevalence (percentage) among females aged 15–19 years from 1997 to 2013



### Social norms

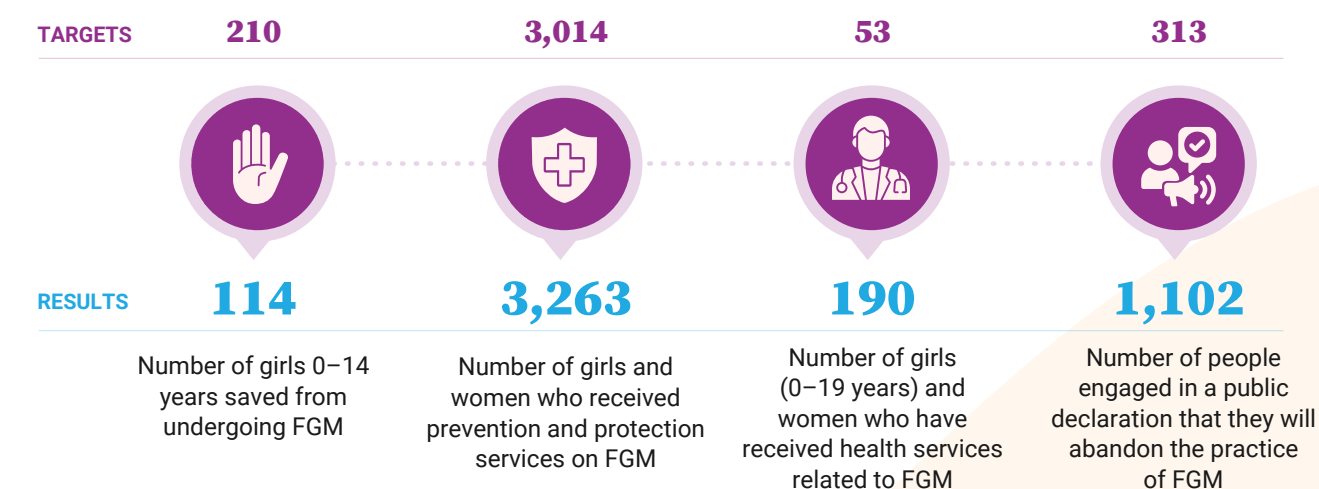
No data available for descriptive and injunctive norms or for outcome expectancies.

### Proportion of individuals who believe FGM should be stopped



Source: DHS from 1997 - 2013.

### Highlights of 2024 programme results



### Spotlighted interventions

These interventions were implemented in Hadramout Governorate which has an FGM prevalence of 79.9 per cent.

#### Engaging women-led organizations

→ In 2024, the Joint Programme partnered with the Yemen Women's Union, a women-led organization, on a project supporting 30 FGM practitioners to pursue alternative livelihoods. The Yemen Women's Union also conducted FGM awareness sessions in Women and Girls Safe Spaces.

#### Promoting girls' agency

→ The 60-member Child Honour Ambassadors Network, supported by the Joint Programme, conducts door-to-door campaigns targeting pregnant women and new mothers. Ambassadors reach out during the last month of pregnancy and the newborn's first week, actively persuading mothers to refrain from practising FGM, which often occurs shortly after birth. The 15-member College of Girls' Network at Hadramout University also plays a crucial role in raising awareness and advocating through focus group discussions assisted by the Joint Programme. In Women and Girls Safe Spaces in Hadramout and Al Mahra governorates, the programme supports trained case workers to provide awareness-raising and psychosocial support tailored to girls' needs.



## IN-COUNTRY PARTNERS

| Number | List of partners*                                      |
|--------|--------------------------------------------------------|
| 2      | Human Access, Yemen Women Union (subcontracted Tehama) |

\* List is a mix of implementing and strategic partners