FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA
FACTS AND FIGURES

WHAT IS FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION (FGM)?

Harmful traditional practice and serious violation of human rights involving cutting, removing or sewing closed flesh female genital organs. FGM has severe short and long-term consequences.

- **Short term:** Can lead to death or serious health complications: hemorrhage, shock, infection, urine retention and severe pain.
- **Long term:** Can lead to severe complications in childbirth and chronic infections.
- Affected girls are at increased risk of becoming child brides and dropping out of school.

THE MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA ACCOUNTS FOR A QUARTER OF ALL FGM CASES GLOBALLY

PROGRESS IN THOSE FIVE COUNTRIES

30 YEARS AGO
- 70% of girls affected;
- (CRC adoption)

TODAY
- half of all girls

Among high prevalence countries, Egypt has seen the strongest progress in the past 30 years.

Even if trends are improving, at current rates, 1/3 of all girls will undergo the practice by 2030.

To eliminate FGM by 2030: regional progress rate needs to be 15 TIMES FASTER.

50 million GIRLS AND WOMEN have undergone the harmful practice in the region including Egypt, Djibouti, Sudan and parts of Yemen and Iraq.
MEDICALIZATION - when FGM is conducted by medical professionals

Medicalization increasing in Egypt and Sudan

Traditional practitioners responsible for FGM in Yemen, Djibouti and Iraq

FGM is NEVER SAFE, no matter who performs it

Less than half of women support FGM in most countries in the region

Support from local communities for FGM is the highest in Egypt

Medicalization increasing in Egypt and Sudan

Traditional practitioners responsible for FGM in Yemen, Djibouti and Iraq

FGM is NEVER SAFE, no matter who performs it

Focus on Egypt:

A majority of Egyptians still believe that husbands prefer women who have undergone FGM

Nearly half of all Egyptians believe the practice prevents adultery

On average, less than half of all Egyptians believe the practice is required by religion

Overall, more than half of all Egyptians believe that it can lead to a girl’s death

Only a quarter of all girls in Egypt have received information ‘recently’ on FGM, mainly from television

Opinions and Beliefs

Wealth and Education

In Egypt and parts of Yemen

In Egypt and parts of Yemen

In parts of Iraq and Sudan

In parts of Iraq and Sudan

For more information

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