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Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)

SUDAN



## Key Facts

- Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) remains prevalent in Sudan, affecting **87** per cent of women aged 15-49 years old, and 32 per cent of girls 14 or younger.
- FGM includes procedures that intentionally alter or cause injury to the female genital organs for non-medical reasons.
- Procedures can cause severe bleeding, problems urinating, cysts, infections, infertility and increased risk of complications in pregnancy and childbirth, sometimes leading to death.
- FGM is mostly carried out on young girls sometime between infancy and age 15.
- More than **125 million** girls and women alive today have been cut in the 29 countries in Africa and Middle East where FGM is most concentrated.
- FGM is a violation of the human rights of girls and women.

FGM is a human rights issue that affects girls and women worldwide. Its elimination is a global concern. In 2012, the United Nations General Assembly adopted a milestone resolution calling on the international community to intensify efforts to end the practice.

In September 2015, the global community agreed to a new set of development goals – the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) – which includes a target under Goal 5 to eliminate all harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriage and FGM/C, by the year 2030.

## Situation



Almost **87 per cent** of women and girls affected

## Response

The Saleema initiative, launched by the National Council of Child Welfare (NCCW) and UNICEF Sudan is a national initiative that supports the protection of girls from FGM, by changing perceptions through promoting new positive terminology to describe the natural bodies of girls and women.

'Saleema' means whole, healthy in body and mind, unharmed, intact and untouched.

Since the Initiative began in 2009, the ideal of keeping girls Saleema has spread throughout Sudan, and also created interest in neighbouring countries

The Saleema model of positive communication is Sudan's gift to building the best future for girls and women everywhere.

Although FGM/C has not been banned nationally, six states have issued legislations to prohibit the practice. These are South Kordofan, Gedaref, South Darfur, Northern State, Blue Nile and North Kordofan