

Ethiopia

COUNTRY SNAPSHOT

FGM prevalence among girls and women aged 15 to 49 by year



FGM: Drivers, Prevalence, Attitudes and Progress Towards Elimination



FGM Drivers and Practitioners

- Patriarchal norms that seek to exert control over women's sexuality and influence their societal acceptance are substantial enablers of FGM.¹
- FGM is often rooted in religious convictions and cultural traditions.¹



FGM Prevalence and Attitudes

- 85% and 87% of girls and women, and boys and men aged 15 to 19, respectively, believe FGM should be discontinued.
- 79% and 87% of girls and women, and boys and men aged 15 to 49, respectively, believe that FGM should be discontinued.²
- 65% of women and girls aged 15 to 49 have undergone some form of FGM.²



Progress Towards the Elimination of FGM

- Need to accelerate efforts at least five times to eliminate FGM by 2030.



Key Partners

Government: Ministry of Women and Social Affairs, Ministry of Justice, Bureaus of Women and Social Affairs, Bureaus of Justice.

Non-Governmental Organizations: CARE Ethiopia, Girl Effect (women-led), Population Media Center–Ethiopia, Ethiopian Muslims' Relief and Development Association, Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus, Development Expertise Center, Afar Pastoralists Development Association (APDA) (women-led), Norwegian Church Aid, VIAMO Inc. (global social enterprise), Wings Education and Medea (media and communication company), Inter-Religious Council of Ethiopia, Frontieri Consulting PLC.



Key Programme Results in 2023



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

Achievement: 2,319,994

Target: 842,000



Number of girls aged 0 to 14 years saved from FGM through the community-level surveillance system to monitor compliance supported by the Joint Programme:

Target: 580

Achievement: 346



Number of people (women, girls, men and boys) engaged through community platforms in reflective dialogue towards eliminating discriminatory social and gender norms and harmful practices that affect girls and women:

Achievement: 185,828

Target: 134,100



Number of girls and women who receive prevention and protection services on FGM:

Target: 2,920

Achievement: 2,357



Number of grass-roots/community-based organizations and action groups that are integrated within coalitions and networks of youth, feminist and women's entrepreneurs working on the elimination of FGM:

Achievement: 1,762

Target: 300



Spotlighted Intervention

Women's development groups are community voluntary structures comprising 30 to 35 women who meet monthly to discuss development-related matters. Smaller groups of five women meet daily to discuss these issues. These groups make up a large network covering most parts of the country. The Joint Programme made use of this network in 2023, with 2,000 women's development groups raising FGM awareness during their daily and monthly meetings and house-to-house visits. These groups also worked closely with community surveillance committees in tracking and preventing FGM. They also collaborated with local administrations and women's affairs offices to enforce legislation.

¹ UNICEF, 2020. A Profile of Female Genital Mutilation in Ethiopia.

² Ethiopia Demographic and Health Survey 2016.