

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

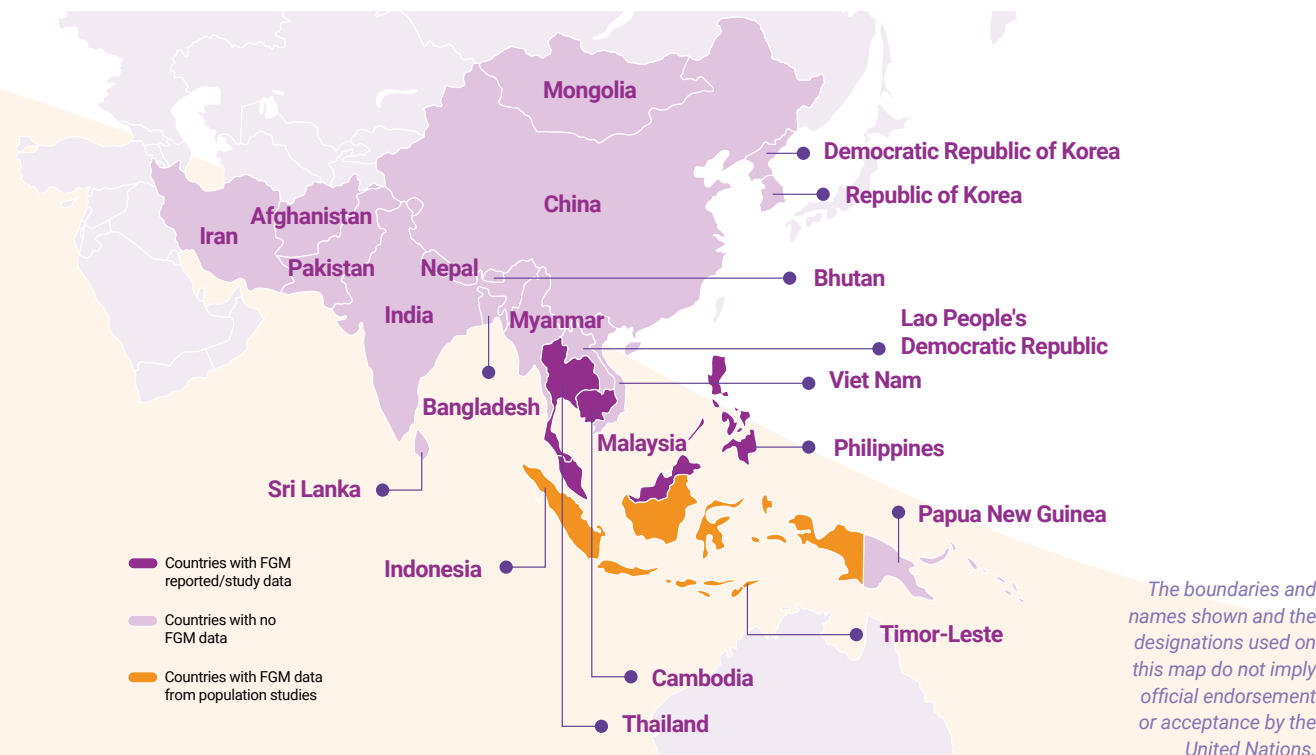
Female genital mutilation (FGM) affects around 80 million girls and women in Asia, constituting 35 per cent of the global burden, the highest regional share. Countries including Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, India, Maldives, Myanmar, Pakistan, the Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka and Thailand have documented FGM cases. Estimates for Indonesia and Malaysia are the highest in the region, including FGM medicalization.^{1,2} 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](#).