

Eritrea

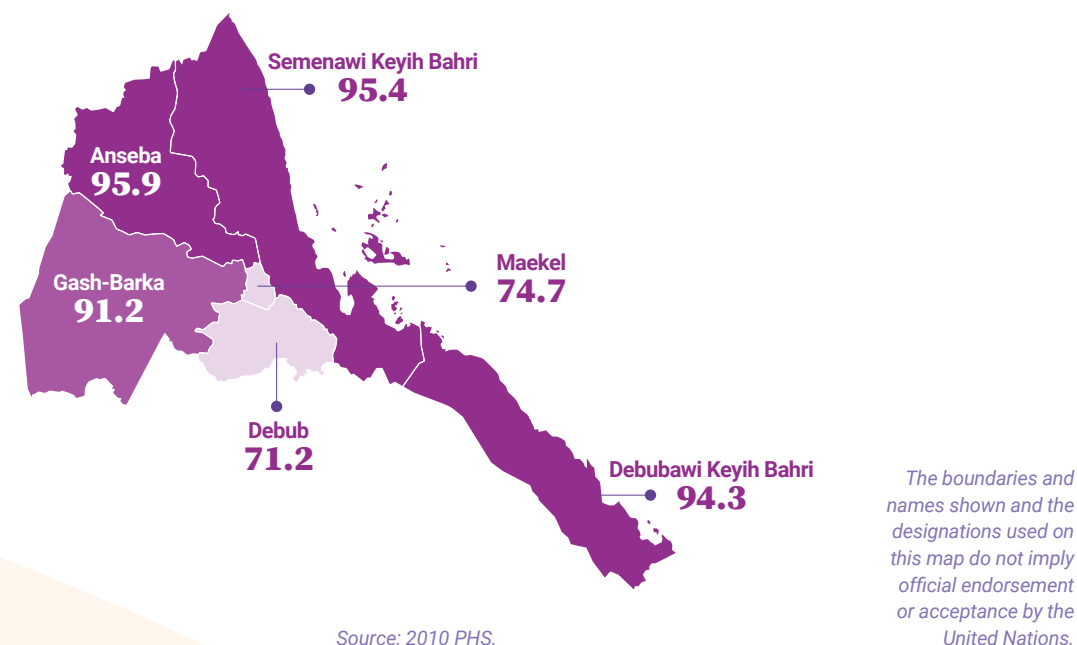
2024 SNAPSHOT

Sociopolitical context

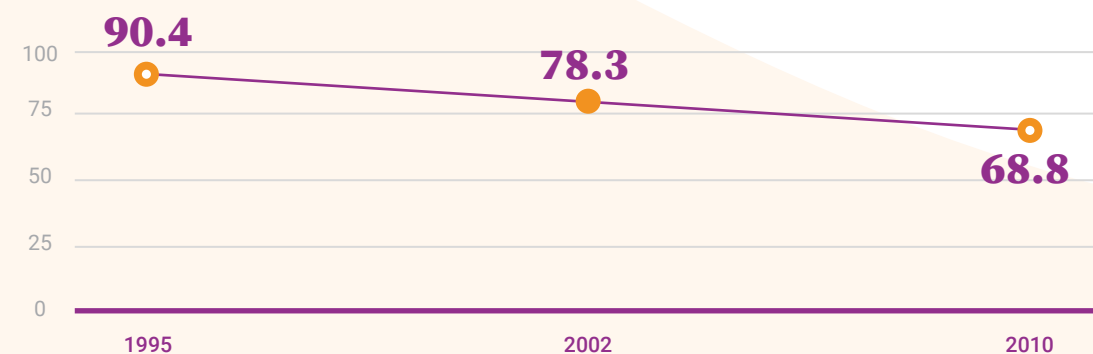
Eritrea's 30-year struggle for independence shaped its post-1991 focus on national unity and self-reliance. The Government drives social justice through nationwide initiatives in education, healthcare and gender equality, aiming to reduce disparities and boost inclusivity. Eritrea has notably empowered 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



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



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

Social norms

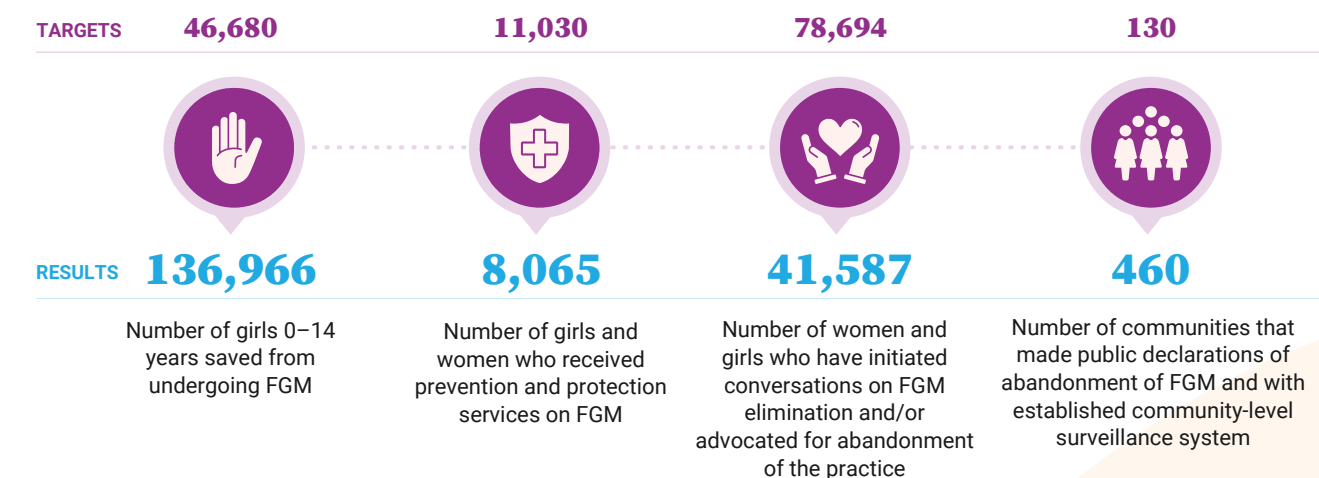
No data available for descriptive and injunctive norms or for outcome expectancies.

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 zobas¹ 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.

¹ 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