

Mauritania

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

- FGM is performed in line with tradition and social norms to ensure women and girls are socially accepted and marriageable, and to uphold their status and honour and that of the entire family.¹
- Residence in urban areas and maternal education are protective factors against FGM.²
- 38.4% of women and 49.4% of men aged 15 to 49 believe that FGM should continue.²
- In 59% of FGM cases, the mother makes the decision to have girls undergo it; the grandmother decides in 27% of cases.²
- FGM is mostly performed by traditional practitioners (79%).²



FGM Prevalence and Attitudes

- Almost 58% of women reported experiencing FGM before age 5.²
- 40% of girls aged 0 to 14 years had undergone FGM before age 1.²
- 41% of women did not know at what age they had undergone FGM.²
- There has been a significant decline in FGM between younger and older generations of girls and women, with 71% of women aged 40 to 49 having undergone the practice compared to 56% among those aged 15 to 19.²



Progress Towards the Elimination of FGM

- Among girls aged 15 to 19, FGM prevalence decreased from 63% in 2015 to 56% in 2021.²
- Need to accelerate efforts at least 20 times to eliminate FGM by 2030.



Key Partners

Government: Ministère de l'Action Sociale, de l'Enfance et de la Famille, Cellules nationales genres, Cellule nationale MGF-MASEF-PMO, Direction de la protection Judiciaire de l'Enfant DPJE-PMO, Projet d'appui a la SR Adolescents – MCJS Ministère de la Culture de la Jeunesse et des Sports-PMO (organisation jeunesse), Direction de la programmation, Statistique, Planification et Coopération – Ministère des Affaires Islamiques et de l'Enseignement Originel – PMO.

Non-Governmental Organizations: L'Association Mauritanienne pour la Promotion de la Famille, Agir pour le Bien Être des Enfants, Personnes âgées et Déficiantes, Sifa Hanki (Théâtre Populaire), Organisation pour le Développement des Zones Arides et Semi-Arides, Coordination des Réseaux pour le Développement en Assaba-Kiffa, ONG Actions, Coordination des ONG et Associations de Nema, Appui au Développement Intégré des Communautés Rurales, ONG Action dev, Agir Ensemble Contre la Faim et Pour le Développement, Observatoire National sur les Droits des Femmes et des Filles, Plateforme des Femmes du G5 Sahel.



Key Programme Results in 2023



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: 2,360

Achievement: 5,036



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

Target: 7

Achievement: 74



Number of women and girls who have initiated conversations on FGM elimination and/or advocated for abandonment of the practice:

Target: 9,576

Achievement: 17,288



Number of people engaged in a public declaration that they will abandon the practice of FGM:

Target: 30,000

Achievement: 28,648



Spotlighted Intervention

The Joint Programme is currently developing an interactive mobile app called "HarmoniGenre" slated for launch in 2024. The app has interactive features to offer a personalized way to engage users on perspectives on gender, gender equality and FGM. It has interactive quizzes on gender equality and FGM and inspiring stories of individuals who have overcome barriers and challenges. The app offers information, guidelines and resources, including where to report violence, as well as online courses on leadership and entrepreneurship, public speaking and self-expression. A calendar of events related to gender equality includes conferences, community workshops and discussions, and provides users with opportunities for networking, including chat and Q&A options. As Internet penetration in Mauritania stands at 44.4 per cent and cellular mobile is used by more than 90 per cent of people, the app is expected to engage a wide audience.

¹ UNICEF [data portal](#) on FGM in Mauritania.

² Mauritania Demographic and Health Survey 2019-2021.