

Djibouti

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

- Women mostly decide to perform FGM; men view the practice as a “women’s issue” and therefore do not intervene. Often, young girls undergo FGM in men’s absence but men are asked to finance the procedure.¹
- Traditional practitioners carry out approximately 93.2% of all FGM procedures.²



FGM Prevalence and Attitudes

- 51% of women think FGM should stop.³
- Girls and women with secondary and higher education are less likely to support FGM.³



Progress Towards the Elimination of FGM

- FGM prevalence among girls aged 0 to 10 dropped from 29.3% in 2012 to 22.1% in 2019.⁴
- Comparison of different generations of girls aged 0 to 10 reveals a significant decline, with the prevalence rate at 94.3% for generations born before 1994 and 21.1% for those born between 2009 and 2019.⁴
- Need to accelerate efforts at least 20 times to eliminate FGM by 2030.



Key Partners

Government: Ministère de la Femme et la Famille, Ministère de la Santé Ministère des Affaires Musulmanes et des Biens Waqfs, Conseil régional d’Obock.

Non-Governmental Organizations: Union Nationale des Femmes Djiboutiennes (feminist NGO), AFT, Association Caravanes et Savoirs du Désert – Network Elle&Elles, Comité International pour l’aide d’urgence et le développement, Union pour le développement et la culture.



Key Programme Results in 2023



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

Target: 213 → Achievement: 240



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

Target: 400,000 → Achievement: 370,490



Number of girls (0 to 19 years) and women who have received health services related to FGM:

Target: 1,300 → Achievement: 1,419



Number of girls and young women actively participating in social and behaviour change programmes such as comprehensive sexuality education or girls’ clubs that integrate FGM in discussions on life skills:

Target: 3,000 → Achievement: 2,599



Number of government personnel from different sectors, CSOs and grass-roots organizations with enhanced capacities for data collection, analysis, research and dissemination, including qualitative data on FGM:

Target: 48 → Achievement: 60



Spotlighted Intervention

In 2023, through Joint Programme support, the Desert Caravans and Savoirs Association established coalitions of men and boys committed to ending FGM. The coalitions comprise diverse male community members as well as influential community leaders, authors, intellectuals and academics, writers and artists, and researchers, among others. They work alongside women and women’s rights groups to organize community-based reflection workshops and awareness sessions that encourage men to stand against FGM. More than 60 influential men have taken part in conversations on eliminating FGM. The coalitions in 2023 reached over 1,000 people in Djibouti City.

¹ UNICEF and Equimundo, 2023. Ending FGM in Djibouti: Strategies and message for engaging men in the fight against FGM.

² VFF-MGF, 2019. Website: https://www.instad.dj/assets/doc/Rapport_Enquete_MGF2019.pdf

³ UNICEF, 2020. “Female Genital Mutilation Country Profiles.” Website: <https://data.unicef.org/resources/fgm-country-profiles/>

⁴ The National Survey on Violence against Women, 2019.