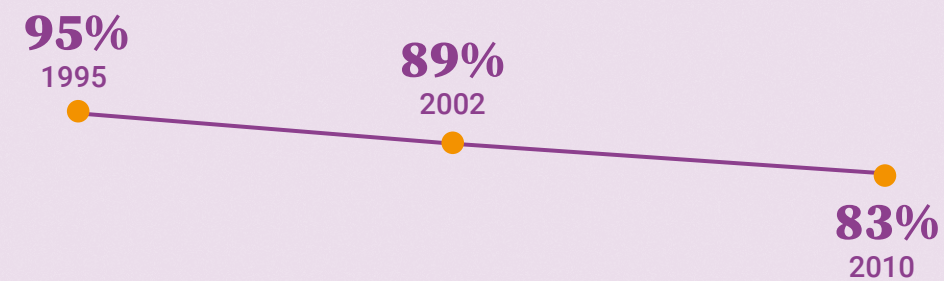


Eritrea

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

- Preserving virginity, preventing premarital sex and social acceptance of FGM are the main drivers of the practice.¹
- Traditional practitioners perform most FGM (98.3%).¹



FGM Prevalence and Attitudes

- 77% of women and 82% of men believe that there is no benefit associated with FGM.²
- 83% of girls and women aged 15 to 19 years have undergone FGM.³
- One third of women (34%) are subjected to FGM before age 1; 26.9% of girls could not identify when they experienced the practice.⁴



Progress Towards the Elimination of FGM

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



Key Partners

Government: Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare, Ministry of Health.

Non-Government organizations: National Union of Eritrea Women.



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: 26,000

Achievement: 38,900



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

Target: 41,000

Achievement: 65,578



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

Target: 3,600

Achievement: 8,824



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: 41,000

Achievement: 22,030



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

Target: 80,000

Achievement: 65,578



Spotlighted Intervention

The National Union of Eritrean Women is a powerful organization that advocates for women and girls at the national and local levels. It has a strong platform to advocate policy, implement programmes and influence norms at the community and village levels. Through the Joint Programme partnership with the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare, Ministry of Health, National Technical Committee and National Steering Committees, the union was engaged in FGM interventions. This collaboration resulted in 16 subzones making declarations to be free of FGM in 2023. These declarations will be verified and, if confirmed in 2024, will bring the total number of subzones that are free of FGM to 20 out of 67.

1 UNICEF, 2021. Case Study on Ending Female Genital Mutilation in the State of Eritrea.

2 UNICEF, 2024. "Female Genital Mutilation Country Profiles." Website: <https://data.unicef.org/resources/fgm-country-profiles/>.

3 Eritrea Population and Health Survey 2010.

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