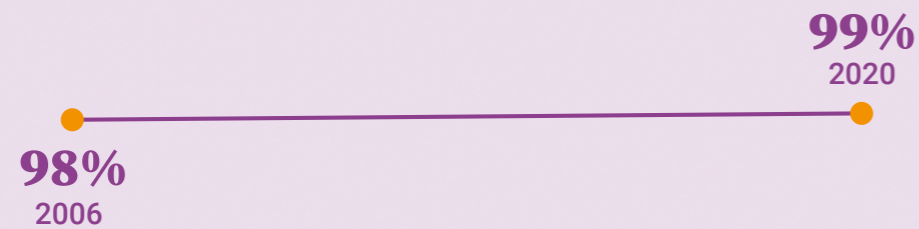


Somalia

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

- Factors perpetuating FGM include beliefs that it is required by religion and that it will prevent pre-marital sex as well as the notion that certain forms of FGM are “harmless”.¹



FGM Prevalence and Attitudes

- 19% of women and girls believe that FGM should be stopped, yet 72% maintain that FGM is a religious requirement.²
- Educated women in urban settings are more likely not to perform FGM on their daughters compared to uneducated women in rural areas.²



Progress Towards the Elimination of FGM

- FGM is nearly universal among girls and women, with 99% having undergone the practice. Most girls experience FGM between ages 5 and 9.²
- There has been no change in the FGM prevalence rate over the last 30 years.
- There is no legislation criminalizing FGM; however, the Federal Government has developed the first costed national action plan to end FGM. In addition, Galmudug state has developed its own FGM legislation, and South-West and Jubbaland have indicated a commitment to establishing FGM legislation by 2024.



Key Partners

Government: Ministry of Justice & Religious Affairs.

Non-Governmental Organizations: Community Empowerment & Development Action, Women Action for Advocacy & Progress Organization, Towfiq Umbrella Organisation, New World Order, Tadamun Social Society, National Union of Somali Journalists, Elman Peace, Humanitarian Integrity for Women Action, Northern Frontier Youth League, Somali Women Development Center, Somali Midwifery Association, Somali Youth Peer Education Network (Y-PEER).



Key Programme Results in 2023



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

Achievement: 256,000

Target: 230,000 →



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: 1,200 →

Achievement: 1,000



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

Achievement: 8,938

Target: 300 →



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

Target: 500 →

Achievement: 444



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

Achievement: 3,506

Target: 3,000 →



Spotlighted Intervention

Through the support of the Joint Programme, a coalition of religious and community leaders, women- and youth-led organizations, and other key stakeholders was established in Puntland. The coalition aims to enhance community mobilization, build consensus on FGM abandonment among relevant stakeholders and advocate for FGM legislation. In 2023, the coalition conducted two consultative workshops with CSO, non-governmental and United Nations representatives to plan a multistakeholder movement. The movement-building was overseen by “anti-FGM movement teams” to mobilize diverse community members in six districts. Social media campaigns took place, and more than 3,500 information, education and communications materials were distributed to all districts. The anti-FGM campaign reached around 100,000 people in Puntland.

1 UNFPA, Peace and Development Research Centre, 2021. A Research Study on the Provisions of Islam on the Eradication of FGM in Somalia.

2 Somalia Demographic and Health Survey 2020.