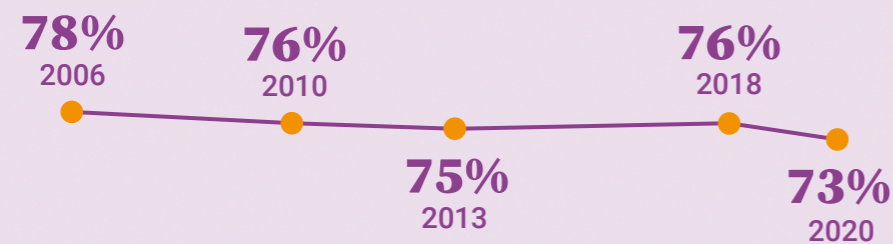


The Gambia

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

- Pervasive religious norms and social acceptance of FGM are contributing factors in FGM prevalence.
- Most FGM is performed by traditional practitioners (98%),¹ compared to medical personnel (less than 1%).¹



FGM Prevalence and Attitudes

- 50% of girls aged 0 to 14 and 27% of girls aged 0 to 4 were subjected to FGM.¹
- 44% of women aged 15 to 49 believe that FGM should be continued.
- 92% of the population knows that FGM is against the law.¹



Progress Towards the Elimination of FGM

- FGM prevalence has fallen from 76% in 2018 to 73% in 2020.²
- Although FGM has been prohibited by law since 2015, the first and only prosecution was recorded only in August 2023.



Key Partners

Government Organizations: Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Welfare – Directorate of Gender, Ministry of Health.

Non-Governmental Organizations: GAMCOTRAP, NGBV, HePDO, SHFG, Girls Agenda, Think Young Women, Forum of African Women Educationalists – Gambia Chapter, The National Youth Council, Girls Talk (girls-led, Catch Them Young, Peace Ambassadors, Equality 4Men, Woman Boss, TOSTAN, Nova Scotia Gambia Association.



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:

Achievement: 31,025
Target: 30,000



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:

Achievement: 7,973
Target: 8,000



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

Achievement: 128,691
Target: 100,000



Number of religious leaders and community/traditional influencers who publicly denounce FGM practices:

Achievement: 421
Target: 500



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

Achievement: 2,811
Target: 2,000



Spotlited Intervention

Relying on the positive deviance methodology and towards raising awareness about FGM in communities, a Joint Programme intervention made video recordings of FGM survivors telling their stories and how they found ways to stop the practice. The videos were disseminated through social media platforms to educate the public about the negative consequences of the practice.

¹ The Gambia Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey 2018.

² The Gambia Demographic Health Survey 2020.