

Egypt

CONTEXT

FGM remains prevalent in Egypt. While there is evidence of a decline among girls aged 15-19 (from 98 per cent in 1995 to 70 per cent in 2015), a high population growth rate means that millions of girls remain at risk of FGM each year. The practice is more common among marginalized girls and women who have high rates of poverty and less education, and lack information and access to quality services. Alarming, FGM in Egypt has become increasingly medicalized; medical professionals are involved in 6 in 10 cases of girls who have undergone FGM. The reasons for increasing FGM medicalization are many, including an initial focus on the immediate medical harms of FGM without challenging core reasons for the continuation of the practice.



87% of girls and women aged 15-49 years have undergone FGM



70% of girls aged 15-19 years have undergone FGM



38% of girls and women think FGM should stop



3 out of 4 girls experience FGM by age 11

Enabling environment for the elimination of FGM

- Legislation criminalizing FGM
- Costed national action plan
- National budget line for FGM
- National coordination mechanism

Since 2018, law enforcement has resulted in:



0 arrests



0 cases brought to court



0 convictions and sanctions

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

Overall performance on outcome indicators in Phase III

Below 70% 70%–100% Above 100%

OUTCOME 1

Have an enabling environment for the elimination of FGM practices at all levels and in line with human rights standards

OUTCOME 2

Girls and women are empowered to exercise and express their rights by transforming social and gender norms in communities to eliminate FGM

OUTCOME 3

Girls and women receive appropriate, quality and systemic services for FGM prevention, protection and care

OUTCOME 4

Have better capacity to generate and use evidence and data for policymaking and improving programming

Source: Egypt DHS 2015, UNFPA estimates for 2018 based on Egypt DHS 2015, Data-for-All, UNFPA-UNICEF Joint Programme on the Elimination of Female Genital Mutilation: Accelerating Change.

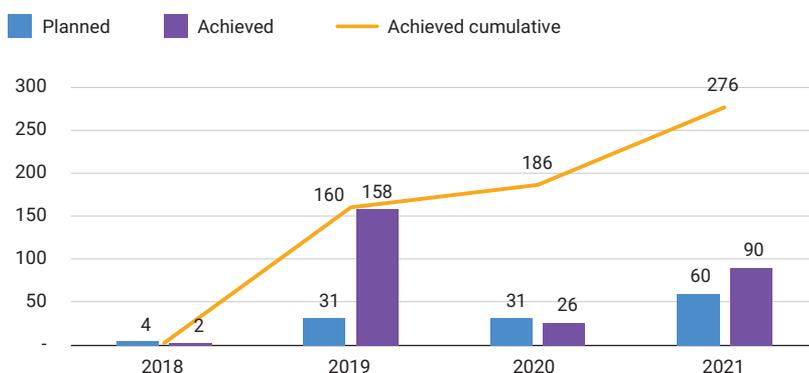
Egypt

Adaptive community engagement

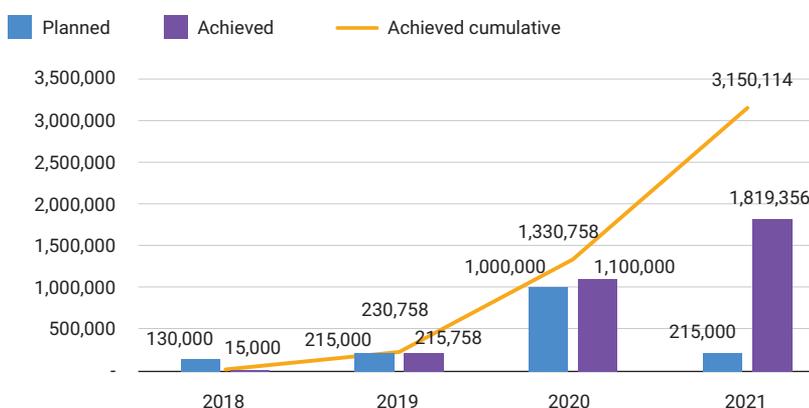
In 2021, the Joint Programme continued to support long-term interventions to engage with community members, including religious and community leaders, to challenge social norms related to FGM. It trained 1,357 Muslim and Christian religious leaders together with faith-based organizations on the negative impacts of FGM and misconceptions around religious requirements for FGM.

Following an innovative capacity-building programme during COVID-19, the Joint Programme promoted community dialogues where men and women from older generations build mutual trust with younger generations to challenge harmful practices such as FGM. Through intergenerational dialogues, education and social mobilization sessions, 3.2 million people were reached in 2021. Moreover, 450,000 people were engaged in public declarations to abandon FGM, bringing the cumulative number for Phase III in Egypt to 1.4 million.

Number of communities that have made a public declaration of abandonment of FGM in Egypt



Number of interactions on social media activities related to FGM that are initiated with the support of the Joint Programme



Tackling FGM medicalization

The Joint Programme supported collaboration between medical and religious institutions to raise awareness on FGM medicalization for both medical professionals and religious leaders. As a result, 2,482 health providers received training on FGM treatment and built skills to prevent FGM in hospitals. In Phase III, 922 health service delivery points in Joint Programme intervention areas had at least one health-care staff member trained on FGM prevention, protection and care services.

Number of health service delivery points in Joint Programme intervention areas where at least one health-care staff member is trained on FGM prevention, protection and care services in Egypt

