

Eritrea

CONTEXT

In Eritrea, FGM prevalence has consistently declined for the last 25 years. In 1995, the Eritrea DHS reported a prevalence rate of 95 per cent among women and girls aged 15-49. Since then, the rate has decreased to 89 per cent in 2002 and 83 per cent in 2010.¹ The sharpest rates of decline, according to the Ministry of Health's community mapping studies, are among girls under age 15 and girls under age 5, as shown in the table below.



83% of girls and women aged 15-49 years have undergone FGM



68% of girls aged 15-19 years have undergone FGM



49% of girls and women think FGM should stop

FGM prevalence rate

Age	2010 Eritrea Population and Health Survey	2014 FGM mapping	2016/2018 FGM mapping
15-49	83.0%	-	-
Under 15	33.2%	18.0%	3.8%
Under 5	12.4%	6.9%	1.0%

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:



10 arrests



10 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: Eritrea PHS 2010, Eritrea DHS 2002, Data-for-All, UNFPA-UNICEF Joint Programme on the Elimination of Female Genital Mutilation: Accelerating Change.

1 UNICEF (United Nations Children's Fund), 2021. "Case Study on Ending Female Genital Mutilation in the State of Eritrea." Website: <https://www.unicef.org/esa/media/8916/file/Eritrea-Case-Study-FGM-2021.pdf>.

2 Ibid.

Eritrea

Strengthened capacity of law enforcement staff

Senior government authorities have strengthened political commitment to end FGM. National capacity-building for FGM legal enforcement provided training to 90 community members

who work for law enforcement authorities to report and avert suspected cases of FGM and underage marriage.

Community mobilization

In 2021, community mobilization engaged 44,077 community members; 17,932 people actively took part in public declarations on FGM abandonment. This indicates positive societal behavioural changes and shifts in gender norms that favour elimination. The 2021 mapping data show that more males (93.5 per cent) than females (90 per cent) believe FGM should be abandoned.



In 2021, community mobilization engaged 44,077 community members.

Strengthened FGM service provision

In six Joint Programme targeted areas, 233 health facilities (78 per cent of the total) can provide FGM-related health services. The National Union of Eritrea Women established a media-based service provision system, using radio and magazines among other media to increase the empowerment of girls and women.