Eritrea

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. 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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age</th>
<th>2010 Eritrea Population and Health Survey</th>
<th>2014 FGM mapping</th>
<th>2016/2018 FGM mapping</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>15-49</td>
<td>83.0%</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Under 15</td>
<td>33.2%</td>
<td>18.0%</td>
<td>3.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Under 5</td>
<td>12.4%</td>
<td>6.9%</td>
<td>1.0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Outcome</th>
<th>Below 70%</th>
<th>70%–100%</th>
<th>Above 100%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>OUTCOME 1</td>
<td>Have an enabling environment for the elimination of FGM practices at all levels and in line with human rights standards</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OUTCOME 2</td>
<td>Girls and women are empowered to exercise and express their rights by transforming social and gender norms in communities to eliminate FGM</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OUTCOME 3</td>
<td>Girls and women receive appropriate, quality and systemic services for FGM prevention, protection and care</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OUTCOME 4</td>
<td>Have better capacity to generate and use evidence and data for policymaking and improving programming</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


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.

**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.