

Senegal

Senegal has a population that is increasingly urban and young (62 per cent is under age 25).¹²² Despite rapid economic growth, the pace of poverty reduction has been relatively slow. Poverty remains an issue with 28 per cent of the population living in severe multidimensional poverty and 8 per cent on less than \$1.90 a day.¹²³ Climate change is expected to increase risks of hazards, with droughts, floods, sea level rise and coastal erosion posing the greatest threats.¹²⁴ New regional concerns have emerged in relation to climate change, migration and the rise of extremist groups in the Sahel.¹²⁵

FGM PROFILE

Nearly 2 million girls and women have undergone FGM.¹²⁶

There is substantial variation in the prevalence of FGM across ethnic groups: Among Soninké and Mandingue/Socé girls and women, two thirds have experienced the practice; it is quite rare among the Serer and Wolof populations.¹²⁷

FGM is performed by traditional practitioners.¹²⁸

Overall, 25.2 per cent of girls and women aged 15 to 49 have been subjected to FGM, as have 16.1 per cent of girls under age 15.¹²⁹

If trends continue, at least one in five girls will still be subjected to FGM in 2030.¹³⁰



As the population increases, a growing number of girls will experience this harmful practice.¹³¹ Most FGM is performed on girls under age 5 and rarely after age 10.¹³²

The prevalence of FGM has remained largely unchanged for at least two decades.¹³³



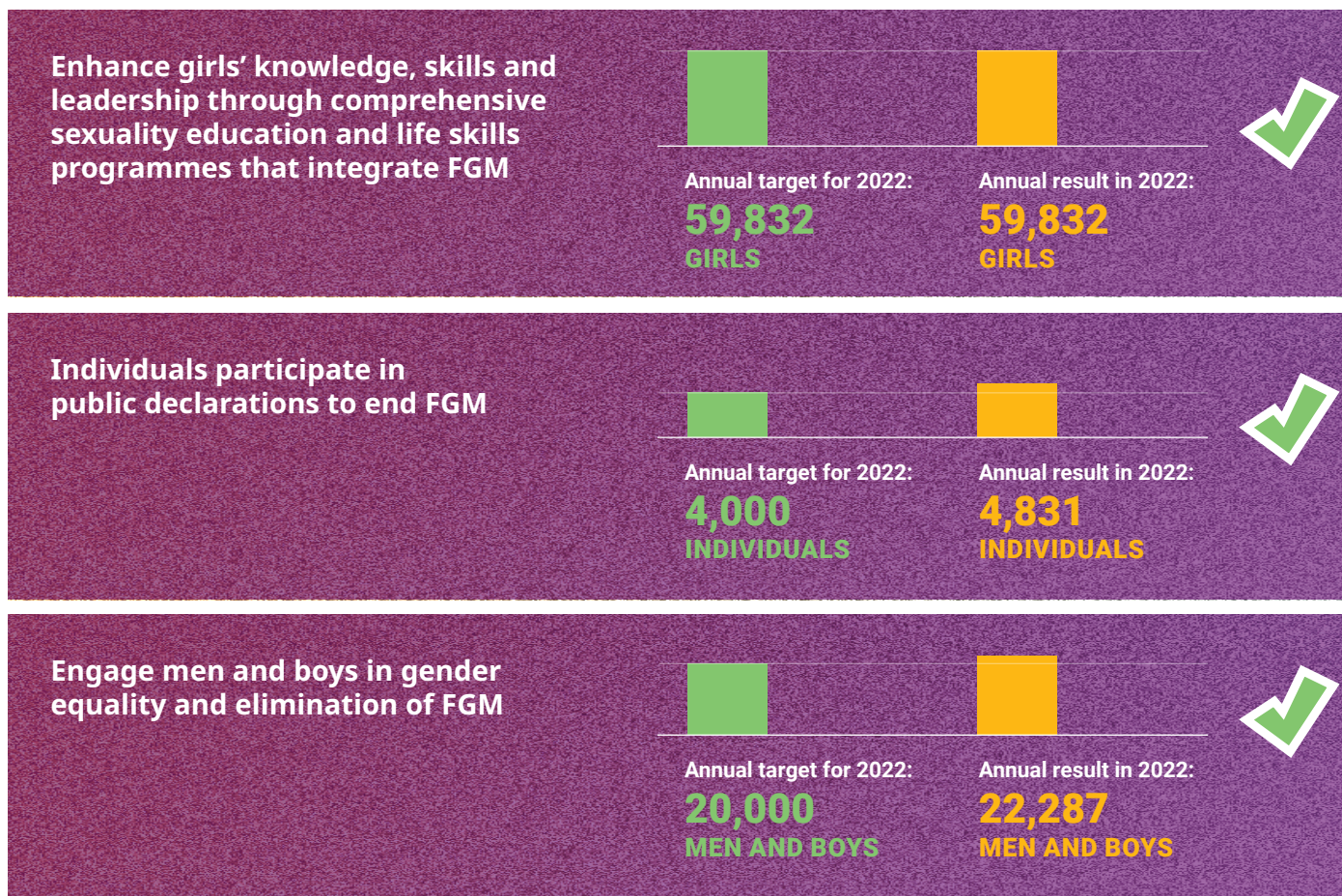
JOINT PROGRAMME CONTRIBUTIONS TO FGM ELIMINATION

National strategy: The National Strategy for the Elimination of FGM (2022-2030) was adopted with a budgeted Action Plan (2022-2026)

Partner survey on the impact of the Joint Programme in 2022: An online survey for Joint Programme partners made it possible to understand the effectiveness of programme interventions. Forty per cent of respondents claimed they observed positive changes among men's groups/associations, and 20 per cent each among community/religious leaders, women's groups/associations and civil society and government institutions. When asked, "What changed?", responses included increased awareness about the consequences of FGM, the adaptation of the "Husbands' School" model¹³⁴ in working with community influencers, increasing health promotion at the community level and the systematic monitoring of newborns to prevent FGM (most girls undergo the practice before age 5). In terms of the impact of the Joint Programme, 40 per cent of respondents reported increased access to and use of services and the empowerment of girls and women, and 20 per cent claimed an enabling environment for the elimination of FGM.

Reporting cases of FGM: A system for monitoring and reporting cases of GBV, including FGM, through SMS or a website, was piloted in Tambacounda. The [platform](#) facilitates FGM reporting that triggers a response from local service providers. It allows the real-time monitoring of cases and the production of statistical data on FGM. FGM is now included in child health records, also a source of routine data collection that may be used to influence health sector policies and programmes in preventing and responding to the practice.

KEY PROGRAMME RESULTS



BEST PRACTICE EXAMPLE

Strengthening child protection to end FGM: Policies, strategic plans and action plans of the ministries of health and social action, education and justice were strengthened to better protect girls against FGM, including through intergenerational dialogue and a government-run mass media campaign (#garderentière) for FGM elimination. New guidelines for training health-care providers include information on FGM. Senegal made progress in developing training materials on child protection, including on responding to FGM and other forms of violence, for the social welfare, education, health, justice and security sectors. In total, 20,774 professional service providers strengthened their capacities on child protection, including through sector-specific and coordination tools. Child protection platforms for violence prevention were set up in child protection department committees in five departments.

122 World Bank Climate Change Knowledge Portal, n.d. "Senegal." Website: <https://climateknowledgeportal.worldbank.org/country/senegal/vulnerability>.

123 UNDP (United Nations Development Programme), n.d. "Multidimensional Poverty Index: Developing Countries." Website: https://hdr.undp.org/sites/default/files/publications/additional-files/2022-10/2022_mpi_statistical_data_table_1_and_2_en.pdf.

124 World Bank Climate Change Knowledge Portal, n.d. "Senegal." Website: <https://climateknowledgeportal.worldbank.org/country/senegal/vulnerability>.

125 World Bank, 2020. Country Partnership Framework for the Republic of Senegal for the Period FY20-FY24. Website: <https://documents1.worldbank.org/curated/en/608781583719225540/pdf/Senegal-Country-Partnership-Framework-for-the-Period-FY20-FY24.pdf>.

126 UNICEF (United Nations Children's Fund), 2021. Female Genital Mutilation in Senegal: Insights from a Statistical Analysis.

127 Ibid.

128 Ibid.

129 Enquête. Démographique et de Santé Continue (EDS-C) 2019.

130 UNICEF (United Nations Children's Fund), 2021. Female Genital Mutilation in Senegal: Insights from a Statistical Analysis.

131 Ibid.

132 Ibid.

133 Ibid.

134 The Husbands' School initiative teaches men in small communities about important women's health issues.