# **Guinea**

Humanitarian needs in Guinea occur against the backdrop of a fragile political situation, weak essential services and a high risk of spillover from the central Sahel conflict, amplified by a porous border with Mali.<sup>56</sup> Around 44 per cent of the population lives in severe multidimensional poverty, and 23 per cent on less than \$1.90 a day.<sup>57</sup> Limited health system capacities, including for community-based surveillance, early warning systems and adequate care, contribute to the recurrent resurgence of epidemics such as measles, meningitis, yellow fever and the Ebola virus.<sup>58</sup> An estimated 1.6 million children of primary and secondary school age are out of school, and more than 4 million children are at risk of dropping out of school due to a new disease resurgence.<sup>59</sup>

### **FGM PROFILE**

95% of girls and women aged 15 to 49 have undergone FGM.60

Sixty-five per cent of FGM is performed by **traditional practitioners** and 35 per cent by **health-care providers**.<sup>61</sup>

Fifty-six per cent of girls and women and 64 per cent of boys and men believe that FGM is a religious requirement.<sup>62</sup> Sixty-five per cent of girls and women and 60 per cent of boys and men aged 15 to 49 believe that FGM should continue.<sup>63</sup>



**41%** of girls undergo FGM between the ages of 5 and 9.64

There has been **no significant change** in the prevalence of FGM in Guinea. There has been only a very small decrease (4.1 per cent) in FGM prevalence since 1999.<sup>65</sup>

## **JOINT PROGRAMME CONTRIBUTIONS TO FGM ELIMINATION**

**Mentorship for girls:** Through girls' clubs, 609 women mentored girls at risk of FGM, and 261 women's groups and 43 girls' platforms supported community-based social and gender norms change through sensitization activities. They also provided protection for girls at risk of FGM. In 2022, their interventions prevented 6,430 girls aged 0 to 14 from undergoing FGM.

**Piloting associations of girls who are "FGM free":** The Joint Programme piloted associations of girls who have not undergone FGM in two towns. Ten girls from these associations led 25 reflective dialogues with their peers on FGM, which enabled 111 other girls to declare their status as free of FGM and engage in awareness-raising activities. Eighteen parents and family members joined the girls and made public statements about not having their daughters undergo the practice. In 2023, this intervention will be scaled up, coupled with mentors for FGM prevention.

### **KEY PROGRAMME RESULTS**



## **BEST PRACTICE EXAMPLE**

"Break the Silence" through the Children's Parliament: The Joint Programme supported the Children's Parliament of Guinea to conduct a large-scale social media campaign to raise awareness about the consequences of FGM and other forms of GBV. The campaign, titled "Break the Silence", posted daily images, messages and personal stories related to FGM on Facebook, Instagram and WhatsApp. The social media component reached more than 55,000 users. The Children's Parliament also hosted two radio programmes on Radio Télévision Guinéenne and Espace FM. Each show lasted approximately 90 minutes and discussed the importance of girls' education as a strategy for ending FGM.

- 56 UNICEF (United Nations Children's Fund), 2023. "Guinea Appeal: Humanitarian Action for Children." Website: https://www.unicef.org/appeals/guinea.
- 57 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.
- 58 UNICEF (United Nations Children's Fund), 2023. "Guinea Appeal: Humanitarian Action for Children." Website: https://www.unicef.org/appeals/guinea.
- 59 Ibid.
- 60 DHS 2018.
- 61 Ibid.

- 62 Ibid.
- 63 Ibid.
- 64 Ibid.
- 65 World Bank, 2023. Unlocking Women's and Girls' Potential: The Status of Women and Girls Relative to Men and Boys in Guinea. Website: https://reliefweb.int/report/guinea/unlocking-womens-and-girls-potential-status-women-and-girls-relative-men-and-boys-guinea.