

Mali

Climate-related hazards in Mali, including droughts, floods and crop pests, pose serious constraints on development and food security. The most highly stressed regions are in the south, where agriculture is concentrated, including Sikasso, Mopti and Segou. These regions, critical to the country's food security, have high population densities and high levels of poverty.⁸⁹ Diverse shocks affected 12.9 million people in 2022, compared to 11.7 million in 2021; 52 per cent were women and 56 per cent were children. They included 7.5 million people in need of humanitarian assistance; 5.3 million have acute needs.⁹⁰ The internal displacement of people increased by 100,000 in 2021, totalling over 401,000 people, four times more than two years ago. In addition, 156,000 Malian refugees live in neighbouring countries.⁹¹ In 2022, around 45 per cent of the population faced extreme multidimensional poverty and 16 per cent of people lived on less than \$1.90 per day.⁹²

FGM PROFILE

Nearly 8 million girls and women have undergone FGM.⁹³

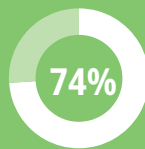


Overall, **89 per cent of girls and women** aged 15 to 49 have been subjected to the practice.⁹⁴

Most FGM is performed by traditional practitioners.⁹⁵

Since FGM is nearly universal, place of residence, education and household wealth appear to have little influence over the practice.⁹⁶

If current trends continue, **around 9 in 10 girls will still be subjected to FGM by 2030.**⁹⁹



Three out of 4 women reported undergoing the practice before age 5.¹⁰⁰

The percentage of women subjected to FGM increases from older to younger cohorts, from 70 per cent among women aged 45 to 49 years to 75 per cent among those aged 25 to 29 years to 82 per cent among those aged 15 to 19 years.¹⁰¹

Prevalence does, however, vary by ethnicity, with FGM far less common among the Sonraï and Touareg/Bélla.⁹⁷ FGM prevalence has remained steady for at least the last five decades.⁹⁸

JOINT PROGRAMME CONTRIBUTIONS TO FGM ELIMINATION

“Protective mothers”: Intergenerational dialogue is facilitated through a game called “My Daughter, My Mother” (“nta den, nta, ba”). It involves “protective mothers”, who randomly select a girl between the ages of 10 and 18 to “protect” from all forms of violence, including FGM, and from dropping out of school. The protective mothers also serve as mentors, providing information and guidance on sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights-related issues. This game not only protects the rights of girls but fosters social cohesion among families. The protective mothers are known in the village, with the expectation that any decision parents intend to make related to their daughter should be discussed with her protective mother. This helps protective mothers monitor their “daughters” to ensure they are not subjected to FGM.

Community advocacy platforms: Over 768 communities in Kayes, Koulikoro, Sikasso, Ségou and Bamako established or strengthened advocacy platforms that promote positive norms, attitudes and behaviours related to gender equality and SRHR. Each community has at least one GBV alert committee with members trained on FGM prevention and response. A total of 12,848 social influencers made public statements in support of the elimination of FGM.

KEY PROGRAMME RESULTS

Girls and women initiate dialogues on FGM elimination

Annual target for 2022:

2,690
GIRLS AND YOUNG WOMEN

Annual result in 2022:

9,143
GIRLS AND YOUNG WOMEN
(6,927 girls and 2,216 young women)

Media campaigns promote gender equality, girls' and women's rights, and the elimination of FGM

Annual target for 2022:

250,000
INDIVIDUALS

Annual result in 2022:

1,277,059
INDIVIDUALS

BEST PRACTICE EXAMPLE

Men against FGM: Engaging boys and men in stopping FGM in Mali was prioritized in 2022, building on UNFPA's "Husbands' School" model. This strategy has proven effective in Niger in promoting shifts in traditional gender roles, improving communication between couples, and engaging men as catalysts for social change related to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights.¹⁰² The Joint Programme is scaling up the approach to improve communication in couples making decisions about FGM, and to engage men and boys as advocates for ending the practice. In the Koulikoro region, "Husbands' Schools" organized 738 awareness and advocacy sessions for FGM elimination. This made it possible to increase awareness, promote shifts in discriminatory attitudes and support public declarations of FGM elimination reaching 8,105 people (3,147 girls, 2,380 boys, 1,562 women and 1,016 men). "Husbands' Schools" include home visits that support the monitoring of girls at risk of FGM. In some cases, families consult "model husbands" on decisions related to FGM, allowing the latter to dissuade parents from having their daughter undergo the practice.

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REACHING

8,105 people

3,147 girls, 2,380 boys,
1,562 women and 1,016 men

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