

Djibouti

Following four seasons of below average rainfall, communities across the Horn of Africa are experiencing one of the worst droughts in recent history. In Djibouti, more than 72,000 people, including 29,000 children, were estimated to need humanitarian assistance in 2022 due to the drought.¹⁴ It has led to critically low groundwater levels, the disappearance of pastures and vegetation, and record-breaking high temperatures.¹⁵ Vulnerable and marginalized groups, such as women and girls, children with disabilities, and refugees and migrants, have been disproportionately impacted. Severe wasting in children is a major concern even as systems to monitor and respond to malnutrition remain weak.¹⁶

FGM PROFILE

FGM is mostly carried out by traditional practitioners.¹⁷

Nationally, FGM prevalence fell from 78.4 per cent in 2012 to 70.7 per cent in the group aged 15 to 49 in 2019, a drop of almost 8 percentage points in seven years.¹⁹

Over one third of women think FGM should stop, with girls and women with secondary education and higher education less likely to support the practice.¹⁸

A total of 59.3 per cent of girls and women and 46.7 per cent of boys and men above age 15 agree that FGM increases childbirth complications.²⁰

JOINT PROGRAMME CONTRIBUTIONS TO FGM ELIMINATION

Data on FGM: The Gender-Based Violence Information Management System was launched to facilitate the automatic reporting of FGM cases and provide systematic referrals to health, social service and justice actors as a first point of care and reliable information for criminal proceedings.

Engaging religious leaders: An advocacy guide compiled religious-based evidence that delinks religion from FGM; it will be used to develop a network of religious leaders who will facilitate inter-religious community dialogues for the elimination of FGM.

Essential Services Package: Internal protocols to provide a minimum package of FGM-related services were launched in 2022. A multisectoral service coordination committee was established to discuss effective and efficient strategies for GBV and FGM case management.

Integration of FGM in national gender policy: Following Joint Programme advocacy, FGM was included in an evaluation of Djibouti's gender policy (2011-2021). Effective strategies on GBV and FGM elimination identified in the evaluation were included in the new gender policy (2022-2026), which will be accompanied by a five-year operational plan. The Joint Programme intends to support the Government in mobilizing resources (internal and external) to support gender equality and ending FGM.

KEY PROGRAMME RESULTS

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



Annual target for 2022
300,000
INDIVIDUALS



Annual result in 2022
326,081
INDIVIDUALS

People engage in community-led dialogues to end harmful social and gender norms and FGM



Annual target for 2022
161,932
INDIVIDUALS



Annual result in 2022
94,627
INDIVIDUALS

BEST PRACTICE EXAMPLE

Community surveillance for monitoring and reporting FGM: In partnership with the National Union of Djiboutian Women, a non-governmental organization focused on women's empowerment and child protection, and a network of 65 religious leaders working with the Ministry of Islamic Affairs, the Joint Programme supported 34 community management committees in conducting community dialogues and education sessions on FGM, reaching more than 94,000 individuals (65 per cent were women and girls, 35 per cent were men and boys, 61 per cent were adults and 39 per cent were under 18). The committees, which also lead efforts in establishing community surveillance for the monitoring and reporting girls at risk of FGM following public declarations of FGM elimination, prevented 640 girls from undergoing the practice in 2022.



- 14 UNICEF (United Nations Children's Fund), 2022. Djibouti: Humanitarian Action for Children 2022. Website: <https://reliefweb.int/report/djibouti/djibouti-humanitarian-action-children-2022>.
- 15 UNICEF (United Nations Children's Fund), 2022. Middle East and North Africa Humanitarian Situation Report. Website: <https://reliefweb.int/report/syrian-arab-republic/unicef-middle-east-and-north-africa-humanitarian-situation-report-end-year-31-december-2022#:~:text=In%20February%202022%2C%20the%20Government,and%20record%2Dbreaking%20high%20temperatures>.

- 16 UNICEF (United Nations Children's Fund), 2022. Djibouti Appeal: Humanitarian Action for Children. Website: <https://www.unicef.org/appeals/djibouti>.
- 17 Ibid.
- 18 UNICEF (United Nations Children's Fund), 2020. "Female Genital Mutilation Country Profiles." Website: <https://data.unicef.org/resources/fgm-country-profiles/>.
- 19 L'enquête nationale sur les violences faites aux femmes (EVFF) 2019.
- 20 Ibid.