

Nigeria

A third of Nigeria's population lives below the national poverty line, with a further one third just above it.¹¹² With a population of 211 million, it is one of the 10 most populous countries in the world. In 2022, food insecurity and malnutrition rose across the country. The youth unemployment rate was high at 42.5 per cent compared to the national rate of 33 per cent.¹¹³ Approximately 50 per cent of people reside in urban areas, a share projected to increase to 60 per cent and 70 per cent by 2030 and 2050, respectively. Agriculture, which is heavily impacted by flooding and drought, serves as the main source of income for 80 per cent of the rural poor.¹¹⁴ Nigeria is classified as one of the 10 most vulnerable countries to climate change impacts and natural hazards.¹¹⁵

FGM PROFILE

While data point to a decline in FGM, girls and women in Nigeria constitute 10 per cent of the 200 million girls and women, globally, who have experienced FGM. **An estimated 19.9 million survivors live in Nigeria**, accounting for the **third highest number** who have undergone the practice, by country, worldwide.

Twenty per cent of girls and women aged 15 to 49 have experienced FGM.¹¹⁶

Eight-seven per cent of FGM is performed by **traditional practitioners** and 12 per cent by **health-care providers**.¹¹⁸

The prevalence of FGM varies significantly by state.¹¹⁷

Sixty-seven per cent of girls and women and 62 per cent of boys and men aged 15 to 49 believe that FGM should **stop**.¹²⁰

Significant generational change in the prevalence of FGM is evident, as women aged 45 to 49 are more than twice as likely to have experienced FGM compared to girls aged 15 to 19.¹¹⁹

Nine in 10 adolescent girls experience the practice before age 5.¹²¹

JOINT PROGRAMME CONTRIBUTIONS TO FGM ELIMINATION

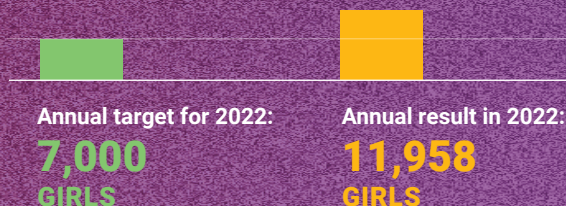
Mobilization through women- and youth-led organizations: Building on a programme adaptation introduced during the pandemic, in 2022, the Joint Programme supported 649 women- and youth-led community-based organizations to organize community-led activities. In 36 target communities, these included education sessions, public dialogues, house-to-house sensitization and community surveillance structures that monitor and report girls at risk of FGM. Additionally, community-based organizations mobilized 1,492 other grass-roots/community-based organizations to join the "Movement for Good to End FGM in Nigeria".

FGM survivors' networks: 36 FGM survivors' networks comprising 1,052 members are sensitizing community members about and advocating for ending FGM. The networks have created safe spaces for discussing FGM, building solidarity among survivors and strengthening peer networks, and access to FGM-related services.

Amplifying the campaign to end FGM through media: In Nigeria, mass and social media play critical roles in amplifying the campaign to end FGM. They reached 2,321,591 people in 2022, diffusing information and creating a ripple effect by encouraging communities outside Joint Programme target communities to denounce FGM. The Trailblazers Initiative, a youth-led organization in Oyo State, disseminated messages promoting FGM prevention, women's and girls' rights and gender equality, reaching 414,000 individuals through radio and television, and 14,000 through Facebook and Instagram.

KEY PROGRAMME RESULTS

Enhance girls' knowledge, skills and leadership through comprehensive sexuality education and life skills programmes that integrate FGM



Religious and community leaders publicly denounce FGM



BEST PRACTICE EXAMPLE

Adolescent girls' boot camp: The Value Female Network Adolescent Boot Camp is a life skills programme for adolescent girls that inspires and equips them with information and skills to shape their decisions and become positive disruptive forces. The Joint Programme scaled up a partnership with it to reach girls in FGM hotspot states in northern Nigeria, with the Government of Nigeria adopting the model. A three-day boot camp is offered for free to girls aged 13 to 19, including in- and out-of-school girls from diverse communities and girls with disabilities. They gain an opportunity for mentoring and learning life skills. The boot camp supports girls' leadership and promotes their health and well-being by addressing FGM, SRHR, teenage pregnancy, girls' education and gender equality.

In 2022, the boot camp adopted the theme "Girls: Unstoppable Champions for Equality", #ABC2022. Twenty-five girls took part in activities including lectures and presentations, vocational training, self-defense training, theater, poetry and dance. Several ministries joined in selecting participants for the boot camps, with a key criterion being a passion for advocating the end of FGM. Recruitment of teachers/community supervisors was part of a strategy to ensure community buy-in in creating safe spaces for adolescent girls. Knowledge exchanges took place across four states, aimed at collective action against FGM, and the Girls' Alliance Against FGM was launched. Three national television stations broadcasted the results of the camps to build parental trust and increase the programme's visibility.

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