

Somalia

Decades of conflict, recurrent climatic shocks, disease outbreaks, large-scale evictions, desert locusts and increasing poverty are devastating the people of Somalia.¹³⁵ The overall number of people in need of humanitarian assistance has increased from 5.2 million people in 2020 to 7.7 million in 2022.¹³⁶ Somalia remains on the front lines of climate change and is the most severely drought-affected country in the Horn of Africa. The drought emergency has affected at least 3.2 million people in 90 per cent of the country's districts and displaced some 169,000 people.¹³⁷ Climate change disrupts rural livelihoods, resulting in rapid urbanization, which in turn contributes to high rates of forced evictions. In 2022, the conflict in Ethiopia further threatened prospects for peace and stability in Somalia. In total, 2.9 million people are estimated to be internally displaced throughout Somalia, one of the highest numbers in the world.¹³⁸

FGM PROFILE

FGM is nearly universal among girls and women, with 99 per cent having undergone the practice.¹³⁹

The vast majority of girls experience FGM between the ages of 5 and 9.

19% of women and girls believe that FGM should be **stopped**.¹⁴⁰ There has been no change in the FGM prevalence rate over time.



Seventy-two per cent of women believe that FGM **is a religious requirement**.¹⁴¹

Educated women in urban settings are more likely **not to perform FGM** on their daughters compared to uneducated women in rural areas.¹⁴²

There is no legislation criminalizing FGM in Somalia: Government and political actors have demonstrated a commitment to promote FGM bills and policy at the federal and Somaliland government levels.

JOINT PROGRAMME CONTRIBUTIONS TO FGM ELIMINATION

Adolescent girls lead sensitization and intergenerational dialogues: 1,207 girls were trained on how to conduct peer education sessions and intergenerational dialogues on FGM with their families and communities, using theater performances, door-to-door campaigns and community dialogue sessions.

Maternal kits promoting FGM prevention: The Joint Programme produced maternal kits for ending FGM as gifts for new mothers. The kits are distributed at maternity wards and contain essential baby items. Approximately 500 mothers who received the kits committed to not subjecting their daughters to FGM. Nurses and midwives in select health facilities were trained and supported to conduct follow-up visits with new mothers to encourage their families not to perform FGM.

Advocacy for legislation: The Joint Programme has continued to support the Ministry of Justice and Religion and Ministry of Women and Development in Puntland to mobilize for the presentation of the draft FGM bill to Parliament. Elections in 2021 and 2022 delayed this effort, however. The Joint Programme established a working group to coordinate efforts related to the enactment of the sex offenses and FGM bills. It also supported the Office of the Deputy Speaker to recruit a dedicated consultant to provide technical guidance on the enactment of gender-sensitive legislation, including laws that support zero tolerance for FGM. With the elections over and new ministers appointed, the Joint Programme is poised to sustain support for the enactment and implementation of policies and laws criminalizing FGM.

KEY PROGRAMME RESULTS

Strengthen the capacity of grassroots organizations to network, build partnerships and advocate for ending FGM

Annual target for 2022:

570
ORGANIZATIONS

Annual result in 2022:

942
ORGANIZATIONS



Health service delivery points where at least one health-care provider is trained on FGM prevention and response services

Annual target for 2022:

1,210
DELIVERY POINTS

Annual result in 2022:

1,521
DELIVERY POINTS



Prevent girls from undergoing FGM through community-led surveillance

Annual target for 2022:

1,000
GIRLS

Annual result in 2022:

1,707
WOMEN PLEDGED
*not to have their daughters
undergo FGM*



BEST PRACTICE EXAMPLE

Social mobilization: As part of catalysing community-led actions to reduce GBV, including FGM, the Joint Programme trained 426 (216 women and 208 men) community dialogue leaders on community engagement techniques. They formed action teams to build positive norms by facilitating dialogues among key groups in their communities. Dialogues stimulated reflection on human rights principles and ideals and on shared community values and beliefs, debates about beliefs and norms that are harmful to girls and women, and deliberation on alternatives. The Joint Programme also built capacity within communities to provide care and support to girls and women at risk of and affected by FGM and their families. In 2022, 1,948 community members (969 men, 947 women, 16 girls and 16 boys) participated in community dialogues that fostered a collective commitment and community action plans for social change, including to end FGM. Sessions reached 84,280 people in 13 communities.

135 OCHA (Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs), 2021. Somalia: Humanitarian Response Plan 2022. Website: <https://reliefweb.int/report/somalia/somalia-humanitarian-response-plan-2022-december-2021>.

136 UNICEF (United Nations Children's Fund), 2023. Somalia Humanitarian Situation Report No.6. Website: <https://reliefweb.int/report/somalia/unicf-somalia-humanitarian-situation-report-no6-january-june-2023#:~:text=Furthermore%2C%20the%20number%20of%20people,8.25%20million%20people%20in%202023.>

137 OCHA (United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs), 2021. Somalia: Humanitarian Response Plan 2022. Website: <https://reliefweb.int/report/somalia/somalia-humanitarian-response-plan-2022-december-2021>.

138 IOM (International Organization for Migration), 2022. "Somalia Crisis Response Plan." Website: [https://crisisresponse.iom.int/response/somalia-crisis-response-plan-2022#:~:text=With%202.9%20million%20people%20estimated,\(IDPs\)%20in%20the%20world.](https://crisisresponse.iom.int/response/somalia-crisis-response-plan-2022#:~:text=With%202.9%20million%20people%20estimated,(IDPs)%20in%20the%20world.)

139 DHS 2020.

140 Ibid.

141 Ibid.

142 Ibid.