

Guinea-Bissau

Guinea-Bissau experienced recurrent political instability in 2022 following relative stability in 2021. Basic social services and the justice sector were unreliable for several months. Compounding this challenging situation were persistent strikes in key sectors such as education and health. Globally, Guinea-Bissau is the fourth most vulnerable country to climate change.⁶⁶ Floods are a recurring natural hazard, especially along its coast. Droughts have struck in the recent past, and heavy rainfall events occur often and cause flooding with severe impacts on infrastructure, agriculture and public health. Guinea-Bissau is also highly vulnerable to economic shocks.⁶⁷ While it has the greatest natural wealth per capita in West Africa, approximately 36 per cent of the population experiences severe multidimensional poverty, and 25 per cent lives on less than \$1.90 a day.⁶⁸

FGM PROFILE

FGM prevalence rates have **mostly stagnated** in the last 10 years, with an increase among girls and women aged 15 to 49 from 50 per cent in 2010 to 52 per cent in 2018-2019.⁶⁹ Despite the increase, a shift in attitudes is evident, with only 13 per cent of girls and women aged 15 to 49 in favour of continuing the practice in 2018-2019, compared to 34 per cent in 2010.⁷⁰



Three quarters of girls and women in Guinea-Bissau think FGM should **stop**.⁷⁶

Most FGM is performed by traditional practitioners on girls under age 5.⁷³

Girls and women from rural areas, with less education or who identify as Muslim are at greater risk of FGM.⁷⁴ **The practice is highly concentrated in the Gabu and Bafatá regions and among certain ethnic groups.**⁷⁵

Over 400,000 girls and women have undergone FGM.⁷¹

52% of girls and women aged 15 to 49 years have been subjected to the practice.⁷²

If current trends continue, half of girls will still experience FGM in 2030.⁷⁷ **The prevalence of FGM has remained unchanged for at least the last four decades.**⁷⁸

JOINT PROGRAMME CONTRIBUTIONS TO FGM ELIMINATION

Girls' and women's leadership: At the community level, 19,519 girls and women in high prevalence regions (Gabu, Bafata, Oio and Quinara) raised awareness about FGM and facilitated reflective dialogues, including intergenerational dialogues on the benefits of ending the practice.

Improving FGM case management: The Joint Programme strengthened the capacity of stakeholders to improve FGM case management protocols and coordination among different actors (police, courts, hospitals, shelters, and the social workforce from the justice, health and protection services), and the capacity of women, girls and families to report cases and access services.

KEY PROGRAMME RESULTS

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



Annual target for 2022

26,453
GIRLS



Annual result in 2022

31,872
GIRLS



Prevent girls from undergoing FGM through community-led surveillance



Annual target for 2022

10,500
GIRLS



Annual result in 2022

7,066
GIRLS



Engage men and boys in gender equality, positive masculinities and the elimination of FGM



Annual target for 2022

30,000
MEN AND BOYS



Annual result in 2022

31,966
MEN AND BOYS



BEST PRACTICE EXAMPLE

Integrating FGM in formal education: The Ana Pereira Foundation, a local non-governmental organization, implemented the “Bioksand Goes to School” project in collaboration with the Ministry of Education. Bioksand is a fictional character, an 18-year-old girl who is an aspiring sociologist. She wants to contribute to ending violence and discrimination against girls and women. The project reached 23,591 students in 18 schools through education sessions promoting human rights and the elimination of GBV, including FGM. The Ana Pereira Foundation also organized the Vox Juvenil (Youth Voices) contest. It selected 1,395 youth to participate in events in Bafatá, Gabú and Bissau. Judges then selected 60 finalists to join a roundtable in the capital, Bissau, where youth reflected on and developed an action plan for ending GBV, harmful practices and teen pregnancy, and challenging gender stereotypes that stigmatize menstruation. Participants committed to continuing to advocate for FGM elimination in their communities.

66 WFP (World Food Programme), 2023. Guinea-Bissau: Annual Country Report 2022 – Country Strategic Plan 2019-2022. Website: <https://reliefweb.int/report/guinea-bissau/guinea-bissau-annual-country-report-2022-country-strategic-plan-2019-2022>

67 Ibid.

68 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.”

69 MICS 2010 and 2018/2019.

70 Ibid.

71 UNICEF (United Nations Children’s Fund), 2021. Female Genital Mutilation in Guinea-Bissau: Insights from a Statistical Analysis.

72 Ibid.

73 Ibid.

74 Ibid.

75 Ibid.

76 Ibid.

77 Ibid.

78 Ibid.