



The International Day of Zero Tolerance for Female Genital Mutilation | 6 February 2024

Key Messages: Her Voice. Her Future.

Investing in FGM Survivor-Led Movements to End Female Genital Mutilation

CALL TO ACTION

- **Elevate survivor voices** by:
 - ensuring that the voices of FGM survivors are at the forefront of local, regional and global dialogues and efforts;
 - amplifying FGM survivors' stories and experiences to raise awareness about the harmful practice and inspire collective action,
 - engaging FGM survivors meaningfully to enable their active role and contribution in all FGM prevention and response interventions at all levels.
- **Invest in FGM survivor-led movements** by:
 - enabling FGM survivors to lead FGM elimination efforts;
 - allocating resources to scale up their efforts and solutions;
 - providing capacity-building opportunities;
 - supporting FGM survivor-led associations, networks and coalitions for strategic movement building;
 - building stigma-free safe spaces for open dialogue within communities, schools, and online platforms where FGM survivors and individuals can discuss and share their experiences fearlessly.
- **Prioritize** accessible, comprehensive, culturally sensitive services for FGM survivors and strengthening the skills of health, social, and legal professionals to deliver sensitive and informed care.
- **Increase the power and agency** of survivors through educational programmes, life skills training, and entrepreneurship opportunities to advocate for zero FGM cases in the next generation

FGM SURVIVOR-SPECIFIC MESSAGES

- FGM survivors face an increased risk of mental and sexual health complications.
- Social and health needs of FGM survivors must be addressed through universal access to quality social and health services.
- Women-led and FGM survivor-led organizations, especially at the grassroots level, have in-depth understanding of the challenges that women and girls face and are vital resources on how to advance their rights
- Partnering with FGM survivors is key to promoting social and gender transformation.
- Partnering with FGM survivors is key to conducting advocacy initiatives.

DATA-CENTRED KEY MESSAGES

- In 2024, nearly **4.4 million girls** - or more than 12,000 each day - are at risk of female genital mutilation around the world.
- There are over **200 million** girls and women alive today who are survivors of FGM.
- Today, a girl is about **one third less** likely to be subjected to FGM than she was 30 years ago.
- **1 in 4 survivors** underwent female genital mutilation by a health worker.
- Daughters of FGM survivors are **at significant higher risk** to undergo FGM compared to daughters of women who have not undergone FGM.
- The financial cost of health care for FGM survivors is **USD 1.4 billion** every year.

GENERAL KEY MESSAGES

- Female genital mutilation is a human rights violation that limits access to opportunities and resources and prevents girls and women from realizing their rights and full potential.
- Girls are today **one third less likely** to be subjected to FGM compared to three decades ago; however, progress needs to be at least **10 times faster** to meet the global target of FGM elimination by 2030.
- The number of girls at risk of undergoing FGM is projected to rise to **4.6 million** in the year 2030 unless efforts to end it are intensified.
- **\$2.75 billion** is needed to eliminate FGM by 2030 in 31 priority countries.
- Girls whose mothers have a primary education are **40% less** likely to undergo FGM than those whose mothers have no education.
- Women's and girls' leadership roles to realize their rights is central to accelerate the elimination of FGM, contribute to equitable social and economic development, and to ensure no girl or woman is left behind.

Do's and don'ts

1. **Do use** female genital mutilation or FGM instead of FGM/C or female circumcision
2. **Do use** caution while taking pictures or footage of FGM survivors or community members, and consider their safety and best interest.
3. **Do ensure** consent when using information and photos of FGM survivors.
4. **Do ensure** the dignity of the FGM survivor and avoid using compromising photos.
5. **Do not use** terms such as cut/cutting and mutilated. Instead use, undergone and/or subjected.
4. **Do not use** visuals or imagery that portray medical tools such as blades, knives, etc.
5. **Do not refer** to individuals subjected to FGM as victims, instead use FGM survivors.