

Kenya

Following inadequate rainfall, Kenya is experiencing its worst drought in 40 years. Approximately 4.5 million people in 23 arid and semi-arid areas required humanitarian assistance in 2022, more than double the number in 2021.⁷⁹ At least 4.3 million people were food insecure, and around 5 million people faced water shortages.⁸⁰ Families are taking desperate measures to survive, such as fleeing their homes in search of sustenance. The drought, coupled with the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, has also eroded communities' capacities to meet children's basic needs.⁸¹ With children dropping out of school, girls are being subjected to FGM. Kenya is now home to 561,836 refugees and asylum-seekers.⁸² Approximately 36 per cent of the population is vulnerable to multidimensional poverty.⁸³

FGM PROFILE

FGM is performed at different ages around the country, including after age 15 in some ethnic groups.⁸⁶

FGM is less common today than three decades ago.

Most FGM is performed by traditional practitioners, except in the Kisii community, where health-care providers are responsible for two out of every three instances of FGM.⁸⁵

FGM prevalence rates among girls and women aged 15 to 49 dropped from 21 per cent in 2014 to 15 per cent in 2022.⁸⁴

Nearly all Kenyans think FGM should stop.⁸⁷

Girls and women aged 15 to 49 living in rural areas are twice as likely to undergo FGM, at 18.4 per cent compared to 9.7 per cent in urban areas. Girls and women with no education are five times more likely to undergo FGM compared to women with a secondary education, at 56.3 per cent and 10 per cent, respectively. Girls and women from wealthier households are almost five times less likely to undergo the practice compared to those from the poorest households, at 6.6 per cent and 32 per cent, respectively.⁸⁸



JOINT PROGRAMME CONTRIBUTIONS TO FGM ELIMINATION

National guidelines for engaging men and boys: Working with the Anti-FGM Board and Men End FGM organization, the Joint Programme helped to develop and roll out national guidelines for engaging men and boys in FGM elimination.

Enhancing the nexus approach: The Joint Programme invested in enhancing the humanitarian-development-peace nexus approach, including the integration of FGM prevention and response services within relevant sectors in drought-affected counties such as Mandera, Wajir, Garissa, Tana River, Marsabit, Samburu, Kajiado, Isiolo and West Pokot, as well as in refugee contexts. The Joint Programme integrated FGM-related interventions within existing cash transfer programmes to target FGM-affected households. In Garissa, the refugee community in Dadaab and the Somali community were especially targeted given that they have the highest FGM prevalence rates in Kenya.

Review of the FGM Act 2011: The Joint Programme facilitated initial discussions on Kenya's Prohibition of Female Genital Mutilation Act 2011. The review involved a 16-member committee comprising six legal experts from the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions – Kenya Law Reform Commission and the Anti-FGM Board of Kenya. Representatives from more than 50 civil society organizations implementing programmes to end FGM came on board to review gaps identified in the act and to share effective approaches to supporting law enforcement and ensuring access to justice for survivors of FGM. Towards addressing shortfalls in implementing the act, the Joint Programme supported the Directorate of Children's Services in passing the [Children's Act 2022](#), which replaces the 2001 Children's Act and provides enhanced legal provisions for preventing FGM.

KEY PROGRAMME RESULTS

Girls and women initiate dialogues on FGM elimination



Annual target for 2022
351,930
GIRLS AND WOMEN



Annual result in 2022
158,692
GIRLS AND WOMEN

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



Annual target for 2022
20,000
INDIVIDUALS



Annual result in 2022
42,593
INDIVIDUALS

BEST PRACTICE EXAMPLE

Campus dialogues to mobilize young people as advocates:

Men End FGM, in partnership with the Anti-FGM Board of Kenya, launched campus dialogues at the University of Embu, outside Nairobi. These engaged over 2,000 students on SRHR, GBV (especially FGM), mental health and psychosocial support, HIV, and drug and substance abuse. Campus dialogues were also launched at Garissa University during the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence. Through these dialogues, Men End FGM created awareness and equipped young people with the knowledge, skills and tools to drive social change, including the elimination of FGM, by engaging their peers, families and communities. An online campaign using the hashtag #TubongeNaComrades ("Let's Speak with Our Friends") reached over 2.5 million people and supported young people in becoming advocates to end FGM.



- 79 UNICEF (United Nations Children's Fund), 2023. "Kenya Appeal: Humanitarian Action for Children. Website: <https://www.unicef.org/appeals/kenya>.
- 80 OCHA (Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs), 2022. "United Nations and Partners Call for \$472.6 Million to Respond in 2023 as the Drought in Kenya Deepens." Website: <https://reliefweb.int/report/kenya/united-nations-and-partners-call-4726-million-respond-2023-drought-kenya-deepens>.
- 81 OCHA (Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs), 2022. "Kenya Drought Flash Appeal: October 2021 – October 2022. Website: <https://reliefweb.int/report/kenya/kenya-drought-flash-appeal-october-2021-october-2022-revised-may-2022>.
- 82 UNICEF (United Nations Children's Fund), 2023. "Kenya Appeal: Humanitarian action for children. Website: <https://www.unicef.org/appeals/kenya>.

- 83 UNDP (United Nations Development Programme), 2023. "Multidimensional Poverty Index 2023: Kenya." Website: https://hdr.undp.org/sites/default/files/Country-Profiles/MPI/KEN.pdf?_gl=1*17fri8c*_ga*MTQ5NjlyMjAzMi4xNjg0NDU3NDkx*_ga_3W7LPKOWP1*MTY4NDc5NDc1MC4yLjEuMTY4NDc5NTc3My42MC4wLjA.
- 84 DHS 2014 and 2022.
- 85 UNICEF (United Nations Children's Fund), 2020. A Profile of Female Genital Mutilation in Kenya.
- 86 Ibid.
- 87 Ibid.
- 88 2022 DHS.