

Egypt

An expanding urban population (estimated to be 41.4 million by 2050) will put additional strains on urban service provision and deepen exposure to climate risks disproportionately borne by those left furthest behind.²¹ High population growth (1.7 per cent in 2021) and rising fertility rates (2.96 births per woman in 2020) suggest that creating jobs for youth and women will remain a challenge. The employment rate has declined, with structural impediments to labour demand affecting youth and women most deeply.²² Six per cent of Egypt's population is vulnerable to multidimensional poverty.²³

FGM PROFILE

Medicalization is extremely common

in Egypt, with girls under 15 years of age four times more likely than women aged 45 to 49 to have undergone FGM performed by a health-care provider.²⁶



FGM declined among girls

aged 15 to 17 from 61 per cent in 2014 to 37 per cent in 2021.²⁴

The percentage of mothers who expressed their intention to have their daughters undergo FGM **dropped** to only 13 per cent in 2021 compared to 35 per cent in 2014.²⁸

86% of ever-married women between the ages of 15 and 49 have undergone FGM.²⁷

Protective factors against FGM include **education, household wealth and living in urban areas.**²⁵

JOINT PROGRAMME CONTRIBUTIONS TO FGM ELIMINATION

Mental health and psychosocial support for survivors of FGM: In 2022, the Joint Programme launched counselling training to provide this support to 703 FGM survivors free of charge.

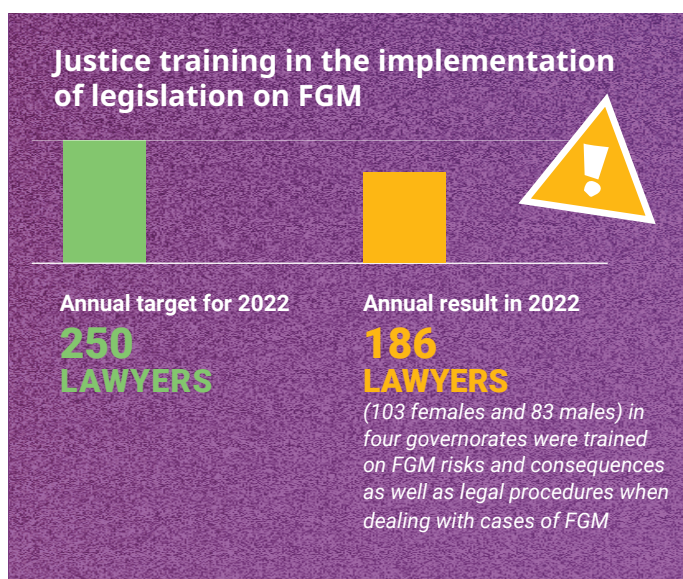
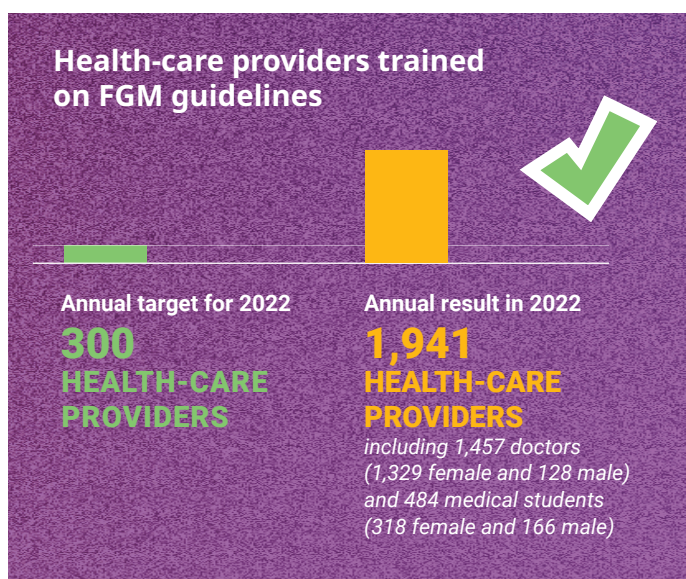
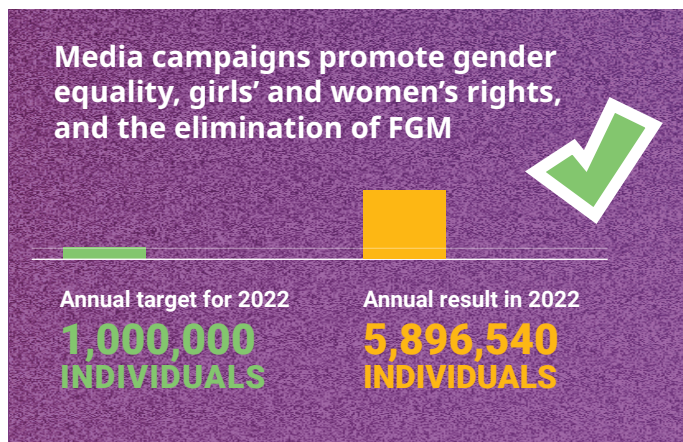
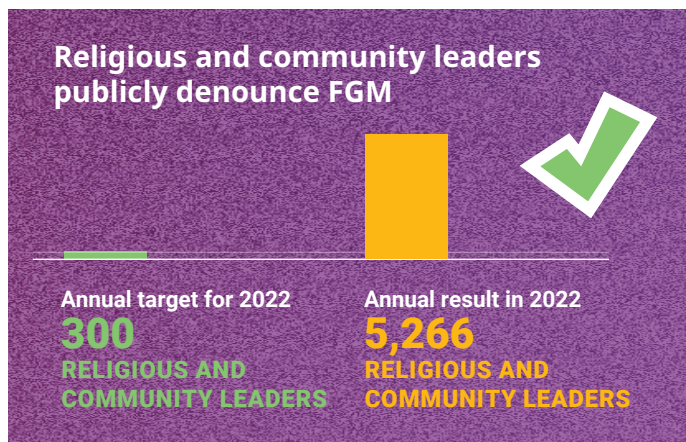
Empowering adolescent girls to end FGM: UNICEF's "[Dawwie](#)" and UNFPA's "[Noura](#)" are both investment frameworks for girls in Egypt, under the auspices of the First Lady. They include activities that support the elimination of FGM. "Dawwie" is a multistakeholder national initiative that promotes positive social and gender norms and practices through life skills development, and ensures access to child-friendly and gender-responsive services.

Both "Dawwie" and "Noura" are implemented as part of the "[Decent Life](#)" ("Hayah Kareema") initiative by the Government of Egypt. It seeks to address multidimensional poverty in the poorest rural communities, including through the empowerment of girls and women, as shown in this [video](#).

Ending FGM through innovation: In 2022, the Joint Programme launched the Social Innovation Incubator programme to empower women through knowledge, skills and opportunities to generate and implement creative and context-appropriate innovative solutions to local challenges related to FGM. The first cycle focused specifically on FGM in Upper Egypt through the "Dafayer" initiative, which supported young women in designing sustainable solutions that are both profitable and have a social impact in terms of FGM elimination in their communities. Seven teams took part in a pitching event, presenting their solutions and business models to a panel of experts and receiving guidance on their ideas. The event also provided scope for networking with potential partners and donors.

National Action Plan for FGM: Egypt's National Action Plan for FGM Abandonment was launched in 2022. Five priority pillars were identified to accelerate FGM elimination: 1) end medicalized FGM; 2) transform social and gender norms and attitudes related to FGM; 3) improve access to quality prevention and response services; 4) increase the availability of FGM data; and 5) develop an institutional framework for the National Committee for FGM Eradication to increase its capacity to monitor and evaluate implementation of the National Action Plan.

KEY PROGRAMME RESULTS



BEST PRACTICE EXAMPLE

Advocacy for integrating FGM elimination in Egypt's climate crisis response: The Joint Programme supported a 19-year-old Egyptian youth activist, Amal Abdallah, in advocating for the elimination of FGM at the twenty-seventh session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt. Using interactive theater, Amal performed a play that urged national and global policymakers to address FGM in responding to climate crises. Amal's performance is featured on [Facebook](#) to reach more people in this sensitization efforts. Prior to her participation in the meeting, Amal benefitted from capacity development for youth activists on feminist approaches effort to responding to climate crises. The training was facilitated by Karama, a network of civil society organizations and activists in 13 countries in the Middle East that provides a platform for women to share knowledge and skills on women's rights, and mobilize support for a regional movement to end all forms of violence against women and girls.

21 Ibid.

22 Ibid.

23 UNDP (United Nations Development Programme), 2023. "Briefing Note for Countries on the 2023 Multidimensional Poverty Index: Egypt." Website: https://hdr.undp.org/sites/default/files/Country-Profiles/MPI/EGY.pdf?_gl=1*lb3uso*_ga*MTQ5NjlyMjAzMi4xNjg0NDU3NDkx*_ga_3W7LPK0WP1*MTY4NDc5NDc1MC4yLjEuMTY4NDc5NTY1Mi41My4wLjA.

24 Demographic and Health Survey (DHS) 2014 and Egyptian Family Health Survey (EFHS) 2021.

25 UNICEF (United Nations Children's Fund), 2020. "Female Genital Mutilation in Egypt." Website: <https://data.unicef.org/resources/female-genital-mutilation-in-egypt-recent-trends-and-projections/>.

26 Ibid.

27 Egyptian Family Health Survey (EFHS) 2021.

28 Demographic and Health Survey (DHS) 2014 and Egyptian Family Health Survey (EFHS) 2021.