



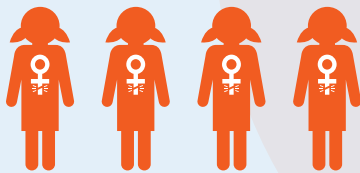
INTENSIFYING GLOBAL EFFORTS FOR THE ELIMINATION OF FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION (FGM)*

10 X FASTER

Progress in eliminating FGM needs to be 10 times faster to meet the global target of elimination by 2030.



Evidence suggests FGM is practiced in at least **90 COUNTRIES** worldwide.



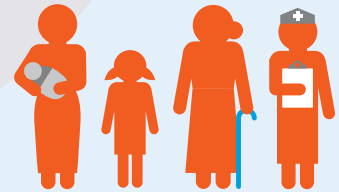
4 MILLION GIRLS annually are at risk of undergoing FGM. Most girls are cut before they reach the **AGE OF 15**.



A NON-STIGMATIZING approach is needed when engaging with communities to eliminate FGM.



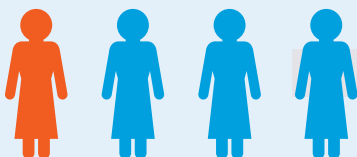
ENFORCEMENT of laws criminalizing FGM remains **WEAK**; these laws are more effective when used to promote awareness and well-being.



Elimination efforts should be focused on **mothers, practitioners, older women, health care workers, men & boys, and traditional & faith-based leaders.**



Services for survivors of FGM **ARE BEING DISRUPTED**, as health care workers prioritize COVID-19 cases.



1 IN 4 girls and women who have undergone FGM have been cut by health care providers.



2 MILLION additional girls will undergo FGM before 2030 due to COVID-19.

FGM prevention must be **MAINSTREAMED**



into efforts to address violence against women and girls.

*Intensifying global efforts for the elimination of female genital mutilation(A/75/279), Report of the Secretary-General, 30 July 2020

SG Report recommendations

The COVID-19 pandemic could severely undermine progress made towards the elimination of all forms of violence against women and girls (SDG 5, Target 5.2) and female genital mutilation (SDG Goal 5, Target 5.3), which are barriers to the achievement of many other SDGs and targets. Member States are encouraged to:

- 1. Accelerate action** now within this Decade of Action to address the socio-economic and root causes of FGM, especially the needs of those women and girls who face multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination. With only ten years left to 2030 to eradicate the practice, States should take into consideration current challenges, including the projected increase in prevalence presented by the COVID-19 pandemic.
- 2. Improve** their national and sub-national data collection using standardized methods that allow for the comparability of data across countries, and undertake an in-depth analysis of identified 'hot spots' to inform tailored policy and programmatic interventions aimed at eliminating the practice.
- 3. Initiate** further research on individual, family and community-level factors that influence whether FGM is performed, and on the role of the health sector in preventing, and responding to, the management of complications arising as a result of the practice.
- 4. Adopt and continue** to implement scaled-up prevention strategies with key stakeholders, such as parents, traditional cutters, older women, traditional and faith-based leaders, and health care providers. Further attention should be paid to educators, survivors' organizations, young girls, and men and boys and their role in changing existing stereotypes, attitudes and behaviors.
- 5. Intensify** their collaboration with key line ministries during the COVID-19 pandemic, including education, to identify girls who may be vulnerable at home and ensure that they receive the appropriate care. States should also engage the media in raising awareness about the harmful effects of FGM and that it may increase during the crisis.
- 6. Conduct rapid assessments** to analyze the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and identify challenges and gaps in current policies and programmes aimed at eliminating FGM. Where possible, essential health, justice and policing, and social services should remain open during the crisis. Alternative approaches to traditional community-based interventions should be promoted. Eliminating FGM should also be included in all COVID-19 response and recovery plans.
- 7. Improve** the skill set of health care providers, so they understand the nature and the risks associated with FGM, and their unique role in preventing the practice.
- 8. Ensure** that health care providers, including doctors and midwives, at all levels, are held accountable under the law for facilitating and/or performing the practice. States should also provide systematic training for the police and justice sector on FGM legislation to ensure that perpetrators are brought to justice.