

METRICS OF PROGRESS MOMENTS OF CHANGE

UNFPA Ethiopia

2015 Annual Report

UNFPA-UNICEF Joint Programme on
Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting:
Accelerating Change



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

UNFPA and UNICEF, on behalf of the UNFPA-UNICEF Joint Programme on Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting (FGM/C), wish to acknowledge, with gratitude, the members of the Joint Programme's Steering Committee for their financial contributions and technical guidance throughout 2015. Specifically, we wish to thank the governments of Finland, Germany, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Norway, Sweden and the United Kingdom.

Our deep appreciation is extended to each national and local government, and civil society organizations for their collaboration in accelerating the abandonment of FGM/C, and for their technical and political support, without which the achievements in this report would not have been possible.

We wish to recognize and commend the international community's vision for, and commitment to, achieving the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals by total elimination of FGM/C in one generation.

We would like to acknowledge the tremendous support provided by Edilberto Loaiza and Mengjia Liang, Population and Development Branch at UNFPA New York, for the initiative on di-Monitoring and capacity building on monitoring and evaluation for the Joint Programme Team.

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ABBREVIATIONS

AIDOS	Italian Association for Women in Development	SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
AU	African Union	SMS	Short Message Service
DHS	Demographic and Health Survey	UN	United Nations
JP	Joint Programme	UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
FGM	Female genital mutilation	UNGA	United Nations General Assembly
FGM/C	Female genital mutilation/Cutting	UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
HQ	Head Quarters	UNWOMEN	United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women
LGA	Local Government Areas	UPR	Universal Periodic Review
MICS	Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey	VAWG	Violence Against Women and Girls
MoH	Ministry of Health	WHO	World Health Organization
MP	Member of Parliament		
NGO	Non-governmental organization		



Girls in Sohag, Upper Egypt
Christina Rizk



H.E. Ogden Rauf Aregbesola, the Executive Governor of the State of Osun, and his wife, H.E. Mrs. Sherifat Aregbesola at the high level meeting organized to launch the FGM/C campaign in Osun state, Nigeria
UNFPA Nigeria

FOREWORD

The UNFPA-UNICEF Joint Programme on Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting: Accelerating Change started in 2008 and has just completed the first half of its Phase II implementation period (2014-17). The programme seeks to contribute to the overall goal as set by the Interagency Statement on Eliminating Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting¹ and reaffirmed by the 2012 United Nations General Assembly Resolution A/RES/67/146² to support governments, communities, and the girls and women concerned towards the abandonment of Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting.

In September 2015, a bold international development agenda, with 17 global goals at its core, was unanimously adopted by the 193 Member States of the United Nations. Within the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) on gender equality, Target 5.3 specifically commits Member States to ending female genital mutilation (FGM). This inclusion is a major result of years of effort by the UNFPA-UNICEF Joint Programme, in partnership with a broad coalition of governments, civil society organizations,

activists and advocates for girls and women's rights. Target 5.3 is more than words on paper — it commits governments to ending FGM/C, and it means that progress in this area will be closely monitored for the next 15 years.

In 2015, the Joint Programme supported governments and civil society organizations in 17 countries and prioritized strengthening the capacity of countries to plan, set targets and monitor progress towards the abandonment of FGM/C. In the context of the SDGs, this effort is essential for monitoring progress and for effective programming to reach the target, as well as for ensuring transparency and accountability.

The 2015 annual report reflects the results of this increased planning and monitoring capacity. Better and more precise data on achievements provide the basis for more in-depth analysis of progress based on the programme's Theory of Change. The experience and lessons contained in the report are important for the continued success of the Joint Programme.

¹ <http://www.who.int/reproductivehealth/publications/fgm/9789241596442/en/>

² http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/67/146

This annual report highlights results achieved in 2015 across the three outcome areas of the programme, including:

- **Policy reform:** Two additional countries—the Gambia and Nigeria—adopted national legislation criminalizing FGM/C, bringing the total to 13. Other countries made progress in terms of ownership and enforcement of existing laws, or advocating for new ones.
- **FGM/C-related services:** 531,300 girls and women received FGM/C-related prevention, protection or care services, which corresponds to nearly twice as the 2014 figure.
- **Galvanizing social dynamics:** Close to 2,000 communities, representing close to 5 million people, made public commitments to abandon FGM/C, a significant increase from 2014.

The reports also highlights how actions within each outcome area are more deliberately designed and implemented in ways that also leverage and improve results in other outcome areas. Interventions are thus more catalytic and effective to establishing and consolidating the social norm of keeping girls intact.

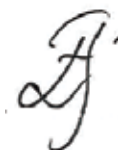
These achievements are especially impressive when considering the contexts in which these gains were made. The past year was marked by political and social upheaval in most of the programme countries: Many experienced some form of instability in 2015, including changes in government, armed conflict, terrorist incursions, humanitarian crises, and an actual or threatened Ebola epidemic.

In preparing this annual report, the Global Joint Programme Team drew from reports and interactions with Country and Regional Offices, and from the Annual Consultation of the Programme held in Nouakchott, Mauritania in April 2016, which brought together UNFPA and UNICEF focal points from the programme countries, Regional Offices and Headquarters and served to increase collective understanding as to what is generating results. UNFPA and UNICEF, together with partners, need to share these achievements to inform other major national and global actions to end violence against children and women—with specific focus to where the violence is based on gender inequality—to reach a multitude of SDGs and improve the lives of millions.

Finally, UNFPA and UNICEF, on behalf of the UNFPA-UNICEF Joint Programme on Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting (FGM/C), wish to acknowledge, with gratitude, the members of the Joint Programme's Steering Committee for their financial contributions and technical guidance throughout 2015. Specifically, we wish to thank the governments of Finland, Germany, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Norway, Sweden and the United Kingdom.



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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In 2015, the UNFPA-UNICEF Joint Programme on Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting (FGM/C): Accelerating Change completed the first half of its Phase II implementation period (2014–17).

Thanks to the generous support of the governments of Finland, Germany, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Norway, Sweden and the United Kingdom, the Joint Programme has continued supporting 17 countries to implement an integrated and holistic approach towards ending FGM/C. The programme is informed by a social norms perspective and sensitivity to sociocultural constructs, with interventions focusing on policy and legal environment, service provision and galvanizing social dynamics. The 17 participating countries are Burkina Faso, Djibouti, Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gambia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Kenya, Mali, Mauritania, Nigeria, Senegal, Somalia, Sudan, Uganda and Yemen.

At this stage, the Joint Programme has reached a level of maturity in terms of better explaining and disseminating what works under what context and knowing what needs to be done in terms of measuring results and increasing programme effectiveness. In 2015, the Joint Programme supported a number of strategic interventions aimed at institutionalizing the various initiatives to ensure ownership and sustainability by governments and civil society organizations. Key interventions include supporting policy dialogue at the international level and policy reforms at country level; improving coordination between different actors; capacity building through training and experience-sharing; and supporting education,

an important development in further refining the programme approach. Further details, supported by country case studies, are included in this report. The key elements informing the theory of change and way forward are consolidating the positive new social norm from within communities; leveraging and supporting existing positive social forces; and giving greater voice, visibility and resonance to those who have already committed to the new norm of keeping girls intact.

Overall achievements of the Joint Programme in 2015 include:

- **Increased global recognition of FGM/C as a priority agenda.** Within the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) on gender equality, Target 5.3 specifically commits Member States to ending FGM/C. This inclusion is a major result of years of effort by the Joint Programme, in partnership with a broad coalition of governments, civil society organizations, and activists and advocates for girls and women's rights. Target 5.3 is more than words on paper—it commits governments to ending FGM/C, and it means that progress in this area will be closely monitored for the next 15 years.
- **A strengthened monitoring and evaluation system to capture and report results in a sustainable way, in the context of the SDGs.** One important achievement in 2015 has been the effort made to roll out the new online monitoring platform—the DevInfo database. The initiative is an important step forward in terms of systematically capturing achievements against the Joint Programme indicators at the

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