Female genital mutilation/cutting (FGM/C) refers to “all procedures involving partial or total removal of the female external genitalia or other injury to the female genital organs for non-medical reasons.” More than 125 million girls and women alive today have been cut in the 29 countries in Africa and the Middle East where FGM/C is concentrated. As many as 30 million girls are at risk of being cut before their 15th birthday if current trends continue. FGM/C is a violation of girls’ and women’s human rights and is condemned by many international treaties and conventions, as well as by national legislation in many countries. Yet, where it is practised FGM/C is performed in line with tradition and social norms to ensure that girls are socially accepted and marriageable, and to uphold their status and honour and that of the entire family. UNICEF works with government and civil society partners towards the elimination of FGM/C in countries where it is still practised.


**Guinea**

**SELECTED STATISTICS ON WOMEN’S STATUS**

- **1965** National decree/legislation banning FGM/C passed (amended in 2000)
- **21%** of women 20-24 years were married or in union before age 15
- **52%** of women 20-24 years were married or in union before age 18
- **40%** of women 20-24 years have given birth by age 18
- **92%** of women 15-49 years think that a husband/partner is justified in hitting/beatting his wife under certain circumstances
- **49%** of women 15-49 years make use of at least one type of information media at least once a week (newspaper, magazine, television or radio)

Source: DHS/MICS 2012
The practice of FGM/C is nearly universal among girls and women of reproductive age in Guinea.

### HOW WIDESPREAD IS THE PRACTICE?

The majority of girls are cut between the ages of five and nine; around one in three undergo the procedure by a health professional.

#### WHEN AND HOW IS FGM/C PERFORMED?

The practice of FGM/C is nearly universal among girls and women of reproductive age in Guinea.

The majority of girls are cut between the ages of five and nine; around one in three undergo the procedure by a health professional.

#### HOW WIDESPREAD IS THE PRACTICE?

The practice of FGM/C is nearly universal among girls and women of reproductive age in Guinea.

The majority of girls are cut between the ages of five and nine; around one in three undergo the procedure by a health professional.

#### WHEN AND HOW IS FGM/C PERFORMED?

The practice of FGM/C is nearly universal among girls and women of reproductive age in Guinea.

The majority of girls are cut between the ages of five and nine; around one in three undergo the procedure by a health professional.

#### HOW WIDESPREAD IS THE PRACTICE?

The practice of FGM/C is nearly universal among girls and women of reproductive age in Guinea.

The majority of girls are cut between the ages of five and nine; around one in three undergo the procedure by a health professional.

#### WHEN AND HOW IS FGM/C PERFORMED?

The practice of FGM/C is nearly universal among girls and women of reproductive age in Guinea.

The majority of girls are cut between the ages of five and nine; around one in three undergo the procedure by a health professional.

#### HOW WIDESPREAD IS THE PRACTICE?

The practice of FGM/C is nearly universal among girls and women of reproductive age in Guinea.

The majority of girls are cut between the ages of five and nine; around one in three undergo the procedure by a health professional.

#### WHEN AND HOW IS FGM/C PERFORMED?

The practice of FGM/C is nearly universal among girls and women of reproductive age in Guinea.

The majority of girls are cut between the ages of five and nine; around one in three undergo the procedure by a health professional.

#### HOW WIDESPREAD IS THE PRACTICE?

The practice of FGM/C is nearly universal among girls and women of reproductive age in Guinea.

The majority of girls are cut between the ages of five and nine; around one in three undergo the procedure by a health professional.

#### WHEN AND HOW IS FGM/C PERFORMED?

The practice of FGM/C is nearly universal among girls and women of reproductive age in Guinea.

The majority of girls are cut between the ages of five and nine; around one in three undergo the procedure by a health professional.

#### HOW WIDESPREAD IS THE PRACTICE?

The practice of FGM/C is nearly universal among girls and women of reproductive age in Guinea.

The majority of girls are cut between the ages of five and nine; around one in three undergo the procedure by a health professional.

#### WHEN AND HOW IS FGM/C PERFORMED?

The practice of FGM/C is nearly universal among girls and women of reproductive age in Guinea.

The majority of girls are cut between the ages of five and nine; around one in three undergo the procedure by a health professional.

#### HOW WIDESPREAD IS THE PRACTICE?

The practice of FGM/C is nearly universal among girls and women of reproductive age in Guinea.

The majority of girls are cut between the ages of five and nine; around one in three undergo the procedure by a health professional.

#### WHEN AND HOW IS FGM/C PERFORMED?

The practice of FGM/C is nearly universal among girls and women of reproductive age in Guinea.

The majority of girls are cut between the ages of five and nine; around one in three undergo the procedure by a health professional.
WHAT ARE THE PREVAILING ATTITUDES TOWARDS FGM/C?

Girls and women are more likely to support the continuation of the practice than boys and men

Percentage of girls and women aged 15 to 49 years and boys and men aged 15 to 49 years who have heard about FGM/C, by their attitudes about whether the practice should continue

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Boys and men</th>
<th>Girls and women</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Think FGM/C should continue</td>
<td>58</td>
<td>76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Think FGM/C should stop</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Say it depends/are not sure</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Percentage of girls and women aged 15 to 49 years who have heard about FGM/C and think the practice should continue, by household wealth quintile, education, ethnicity and age

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>15-19 years</th>
<th>45-49 years</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ethniciyt with highest support</td>
<td>88</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>88</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ethnicity with lowest support</td>
<td>79</td>
<td>79</td>
<td>79</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secondary or higher</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Primary complete</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No education</td>
<td>82</td>
<td>82</td>
<td>82</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Richest</td>
<td>66</td>
<td>66</td>
<td>66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poorest</td>
<td>76</td>
<td>76</td>
<td>76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source for all of the above charts: DHS/MICS 2012

IS THE PRACTICE OF FGM/C CHANGING?

There has been no significant change in the prevalence of FGM/C in Guinea

Percentage of girls and women aged 15 to 49 years who have undergone FGM/C, by current age

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Current Age</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>45-49</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40-44</td>
<td>99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35-39</td>
<td>99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30-34</td>
<td>98</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25-29</td>
<td>98</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20-24</td>
<td>95</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15-19</td>
<td>94</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: DHS/MICS 2012

Percentage of girls and women aged 15 to 49 years who have undergone FGM/C, and percentage of girls and women aged 15 to 49 years who have heard about FGM/C and think the practice should continue

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Prevalence of FGM/C</th>
<th>Think FGM/C should continue</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DHS 1998</td>
<td>99</td>
<td>68</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DHS/MICS 2006</td>
<td>96</td>
<td>69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DHS/MICS 2012</td>
<td>97</td>
<td>76</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
GUINEA

INTER-COUNTRY STATISTICAL OVERVIEW

Percentage of girls and women aged 15 to 49 years who have undergone FGM/C


Notes: Data on attitudes for Yemen refer to ever-married girls and women. In Liberia, girls and women who have heard of the Sande society were asked whether they were members; this provides indirect information on FGM/C since it is performed during initiation into the society. Egypt data refer to girls aged 0-17 years who have undergone FGM/C. Data on attitudes for Ghana are from MICS 2006 and for Sierra Leone from DHS 2008 as data from the most recently available MICS surveys are not comparable. In Liberia, only cut girls and women were asked about their attitudes towards FGM/C; since girls and women from practising communities are more likely to support the practice, the level of support in this country as captured by the DHS 2007 is higher than would be anticipated had all girls and women been asked their opinion.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Data and Analytics Section · Division of Policy and Strategy
UNICEF, 3 UN Plaza, New York, 10017
Website: data.unicef.org  Email: data@unicef.org

These country profiles were made possible through core funding to UNICEF and financial assistance of the European Union. The contents of these country profiles are the sole responsibility of UNICEF and can in no way reflect the views of the European Union.

The Data and Analytics Section gratefully acknowledges inputs shared by UNICEF country offices.