



YOUTH NETWORK FOR COMMUNITY  
AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

FACT SHEET

# FGM IN NIGERIA

FACT SHEET

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# WHAT IS FGM?

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**Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)** refers to the partial or total removal of the external female genitalia or other injury to the female genital organs for non-medical reasons.

- **A harmful traditional practice.**
- **A violation of girls' and women's human rights.**
- **Deeply rooted in myths, control, and patriarchy.**



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# FGM IN NIGERIA

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**20%**

women

aged 15–49 in  
Nigeria have  
undergone FGM.

**19.9M**

women and girls

are living with the  
consequences of  
FGM.

**19.2%**

girls

aged 0–14 have  
experienced FGM.

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## REGIONAL HOTSPOTS

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Ekiti State

**57.9%**

Ebonyi State

**53.2%**

Osun State

**45.9%**

### REFERENCES:

UNICEF NIGERIA 2023  
MICS 2021 SURVEY  
NBS & UNICEF  
NDHS 2018

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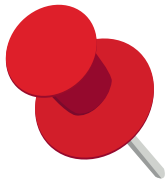
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# URBAN VS. RURAL DIVIDE

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FGM is more prevalent in rural communities where access to education, health services, and awareness campaigns is limited



Many cutters are traditional birth attendants or older women in the community.

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## CONSEQUENCES OF FGM

- **Severe bleeding**
- **Infection or sepsis**
- **Pain and trauma**

- **Painful menstruation**
- **Complications during childbirth**
- **Loss of sexual pleasure**
- **Anxiety, PTSD, and depression**

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# DID YOU KNOW?

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- FGM prevents promiscuity
- FGM is a religious requirement
- FGM is necessary for marriageability



- FGM has no effect on morality or behaviour.
  - No holy book mandates FGM.
  - FGM causes pain and trauma, not suitability for marriage.
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# WHAT THE LAW SAYS

The Violence Against Persons Prohibition (VAPP) Act 2015 criminalises FGM in Nigeria.



Up to 4 years in prison or a ₦200,000 fine or both.



The VAPP Act only applies in states that have domesticated it. As of 2024, only 30 states have passed the VAPP Law.

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# YNCSD'S APPROACH



Training career cutters to adopt alternative livelihoods



Youth-led community outreach and peer education



Digital campaigns to spark nationwide awareness



Engaging traditional and religious leaders to shift norm

# WHAT CAN YOU DO?

- **Learn & share the facts. Break the cycle of silence**
- **Speak out! Silence helps FGM thrive.**
- **Support survivors. Offer empathy, not judgment.**
- **Join our movement. Be a voice for girls everywhere.**

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