

**Intensifying global efforts for the elimination of female genital mutilation:
report of the Secretary-General (A/RES/77/195) (Reporting period: August 2022- May 2024)**

Most recent data on female genital mutilation prevalence, including data on immigrant populations, if available.

The European Institute for Gender Equality of the EU has developed a method of calculation which is used as a basis for the calculations and which also makes it possible to compare the figures with figures from other EU countries. A minimum and maximum scenario is calculated in each case. This includes the so-called acculturation factor, which takes into account the fact that the number of genital mutilations carried out is decreasing due to the new cultural environment.

According to these calculations between 73,232 and 73,602 women are affected by female genital mutilation in Germany and between 2,664 and 20,219 girls are at risk of female genital mutilation in Germany.

(The figures relate to women and girls without German citizenship; the cut-off date is 31.12.2022.)

Datas on women and girls without German citizenship from FGM risk countries in first and second generation

Land	1. Generation		2. Generation		Gesamt
	0-18 Jahre	über 18 Jahre	0-18 Jahre	über 18 Jahre	Gesamt
Ägypten	2.775	11.070	1.530	70	15.445
Äthiopien	745	7.560	2.270	50	10.625
Benin	100	845	225	10	1.180
Burkina-Faso	90	590	100	5	785
Cote d'Ivoire (Elfenbeinküste)	295	2.265	575	20	3.155
Dschibuti	0	85	10	0	95
Eritrea	3.640	18.580	7.900	35	30.155
Gambia	325	1.860	415	5	2.605
Ghana	1.875	15.570	3.650	335	21.430
Guinea	680	3.860	1.185	15	5.740
Guinea-Bissau	60	285	60	0	405
Indonesien	300	13.900	245	90	14.535
Irak	30.540	72.865	15.955	545	119.905
Jemen	745	2.330	375	15	3.465
Kamerun	705	11.215	1.555	60	13.535
Kenia	500	7.925	590	20	9.035
Liberien	40	295	50	0	385
Malaysia	110	3.390	45	25	3.570
Mali	75	425	85	0	585
Mauretanien	20	140	5	0	165
Niger	20	225	50	5	300
Nigeria	4.560	21.785	9.890	85	36.320
Senegal	165	1.520	175	0	1.860
Sierra Leone	190	1.000	330	10	1.530
Somalia	3.755	13.210	5.960	60	22.985
Sudan	685	2.085	390	20	3.180
Tansania	85	1.080	65	0	1.230
Togo	240	4.165	570	290	5.265
Tschad	30	90	20	0	140
Uganda	165	1.860	145	0	2.170
Zentralafrikanische Republik	5	30	0	0	35
Gesamt	53.520	222.105	54.420	1.770	331.815

Information on root causes and factors contributing to the practice of female genital mutilation.

Female genital mutilation (FGM) is a severe human rights' violation and harmful practice of gender-based violence. It primarily affects women and girls, but also people of other gender identities. FGM is often based on harmful social norms and beliefs and reflect prevailing patriarchal power relations. Contributing factors for FGM are discriminatory laws and structures and social norms within society. Also contributing are gender stereotypes, lack of (health) education and other forms of gender-based violence such as child marriage. The number of FGM cases rises especially within crises. For example, as a result of the Covid-19 restrictions, it is estimated that an additional 2 million cases exist (worldwide). Possible reasons include curfews, school closures and restricted or suspended prevention programs.

Measures and approaches undertaken to ban female genital mutilation and/or enforce existing legislation criminalizing the practice

In Germany, female genital mutilation is a criminal offence under Section 226a of the German Criminal Code (Strafgesetzbuch - StGB). This section provides that whoever mutilates the external genitalia of a female person incurs a penalty of imprisonment for a term of at least one year. In 2022, there were no adjudications or convictions pursuant to Section 226a StGB. There is no data available for the years 2023 and 2024 yet.

A new version of the Federal Government's letter of protection against female genital mutilation has been published following the Bundestag elections. The protection letter is available in 16 languages and can be ordered free of charge on the website of the Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth (<https://www.bundesregierung.de/breg-de/service/publikationen/schutzbrieft-gegen-weibliche-genitalverstuemmung-sprache-englisch-1934450>).

The protection letter provides information about the criminal liability of female genital mutilation, including when it is carried out abroad, and about possible consequences under immigration law after the offense has been carried out. It provides information about the physical and psychological health consequences and about where threatened women and girls seeking protection can turn to. It also serves to inform affected and threatened women and girls and their families as well as the professional public and the general public in Germany. It also provides preventive protection when traveling in the countries of origin.

From April 2021 until December 2022 the BMFSFJ promoted the project „Prevention and help with female genital mutilation in Central Germany“ where support services were established in three federal lands.

The Development of a protection letter against female genital mutilation in a child friendly language was promoted from October 2022 until February 2023.

From July 2023 to the end of January 2024, the Ministry of Family Affairs has been funding a project in which a short film to raise awareness about female genital mutilation and the letter of protection was developed and produced together with representatives from the communities. The film has been translated into the 16 languages .

From August to December 2023, the BMFSFJ continued to fund a project in which two short films were produced to educate healthcare professionals about female genital mutilation.

In February 2024 numbers of women and girls affected or threatened by female genital mutilation were published by the BMFSFJ.

Delivery of essential support services for survivors and women and girls at risk of undergoing female genital mutilation; (BMFSFJ)

Due to the federal system in Germany, the federal states are responsible for counseling women and girls affected and threatened by female genital mutilation.

The federal government has funded and supported various projects to further develop preventive counseling, see above.

Engaging men and boys, including traditional and faith-based leaders, women's rights organizations/survivors' groups, and health care workers as part of strategic movement building and social norm change;

see projects above

Measures and approaches undertaken to protect women and girls from female genital mutilation, including when the practice occurs outside the country of residence.

The BMZ aims to identify and overcome the harmful norms and power structures that underlie FGM as part of its [Feminist development policy](#). To overcome FGM it is important to pursue a holistic approach that include entire communities, religious and traditional decision-makers, civil society activists as well as women, and men in equal measures.

The commitment by BMZ takes place at several levels:

At **national level**, German development cooperation **promotes dialogue and awareness-raising measures**. For over 20 years, it supports the **generation dialogue**, e.g. in Egypt in cooperation with UNFPA, to initiate social change. The generation dialogue creates safe spaces in which community members from all genders and generations can discuss sensitive issues such as FGM. In doing so, the community **members themselves explore, appreciate, and evaluate the reasons for the existence of harmful practices** and the values that underpin them. Changes are initiated within communities, and the community-members become agents of change in the context of the feminist development policy.

At **regional level** German development cooperation supports the prevention of FGM in **Ethiopia, Somalia, Sudan**. It supports governmental and non-governmental institutions in skills improvement, joint learning and networking with other actors on how to enforce the implementation of law and preventive measures. This way, they can work together to develop strategies and approaches that promote social change. At the same time, advice is given to responsible national ministries on social change initiation on a structural level, including the prevention of FGM. For through educational campaigns. Working closely with community-based organizations is a priority as they contribute.

At multilateral level, German development cooperation supports the [UNFPA-UNICEF Joint Programme on the Elimination of Female Genital Mutilation](#) in its fourth. The **Joint Programme recognizes** the role of social norms in overcoming FGM the importance of close cooperation with local organizations. As the largest global programme on the subject, it has been active in 17 countries since 2008.

Measures and approaches undertaken to address female genital mutilation in complex emergencies and protracted crises.

The "Violence against women" helpline (Hilfetelefon „Gewalt gegen Frauen“ is a nationwide advice service for women who have experienced or are still experiencing violence. Victims of all nationalities, with and without disabilities, can call 116 016 and access online advice - 365 days a year, around the clock and in 18 foreign languages, anonymously and free of charge from trained female specialists. Advice can be provided in easy-to-read language and also in German sign language. Relatives and acquaintances from the victim's social environment as well as professionals can also contact the helpline. Advice is available on all forms of violence, including female genital mutilation. The helpline has been in permanent operation on a legal basis since 2013.

If the youth welfare office becomes aware of significant indications that the welfare of a child or young person is at risk, - including the danger of female genital mutilation - it must assess the risk of danger in cooperation with several professionals in accordance with Section 8a (1) of Book Eight of the German Social Code - Child and Youth Welfare (SGB VIII). Insofar as the effective protection of this child or young person is not called into question, the youth welfare office must involve the legal guardians and the child or young person in the risk assessment and, if it considers it appropriate and necessary to provide assistance to avert the risk, offer this to the legal guardians. If the youth welfare office deems it necessary for the family court to take action, it must refer the matter to the court in accordance with Section 8a (2) sentence 1 SGB VIII. The same applies if the legal guardians are unwilling or unable to cooperate in the assessment of the risk of danger.

According to Section 42 Para. 1 Sentence 1 No. 2 of Book Eight of the German Social Code (SGB VIII), the youth welfare office is entitled and obliged to take a child into care if there is an urgent risk to the child's well-being and the legal guardians do not object or a family court decision cannot be obtained in time.

Taking a child into care is one of the most invasive socio-educational interventions in child and youth welfare. As a serious intervention in the rights of the parents and the rights of the child or young person concerned, it is only permissible if very strict legal requirements are met.

If the custodial parents or legal guardians object to being taken into care, the youth welfare office must hand the child or young person over to the custodial parents or legal guardians if, in the opinion of the youth welfare office, there is no risk to the child's welfare or the custodial parents or legal guardians are willing and able to avert the risk (Section 42 Para. 3 Sentence 2 No. 1 SGB VIII). If this is not the case, the youth welfare office must immediately obtain a decision from the family court on the necessary measures for the welfare of the child or young person (Section 42 para. 3 sentence 2 no. 2 SGB VIII).

Information on challenges to eliminating the practice of female genitaltation

The key for the elimination of female genital mutilation in Germany is a successful integration policy. It is not only important to promote projects focusing on women and their daughters but also it is very essential to work closely with the communities, their leaders and men.

Cooperation of all fields e.g. the health sector with social service or the youth agencies are also very important aspect to consider.