

UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA



STATISTICAL PROFILE ON FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION/CUTTING

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.”¹ 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.

1. World Health Organization, *Eliminating Female Genital Mutilation: An interagency statement*, WHO, UNFPA, UNICEF, UNIFEM, OHCHR, UNHCR, UNECA, UNESCO, UNDP, UNAIDS, WHO, Geneva, 2008, p. 4.

1998 National decree/legislation banning FGM/C passed

KEY STATISTICS ON WOMEN’S STATUS

7% of women aged 20 to 24 years were married or in union before age 15

37% of women aged 20 to 24 years were married or in union before age 18

28% of women aged 20 to 24 years have given birth before age 18

54% of women aged 15 to 49 years think that a husband/partner is justified in hitting or beating his wife under certain circumstances

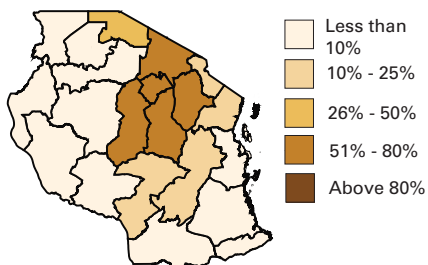
64% of women aged 15 to 49 years make use of at least one type of information media at least once a week (newspaper, magazine, television or radio)

Source: DHS 2010

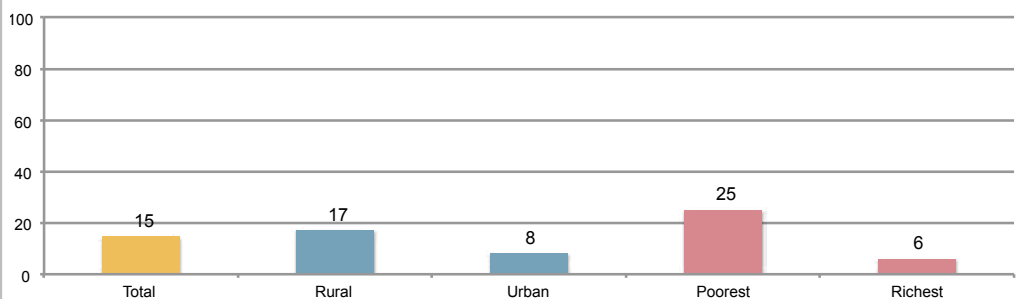
HOW WIDESPREAD IS THE PRACTICE?

In Tanzania, the prevalence of FGM/C varies significantly by region

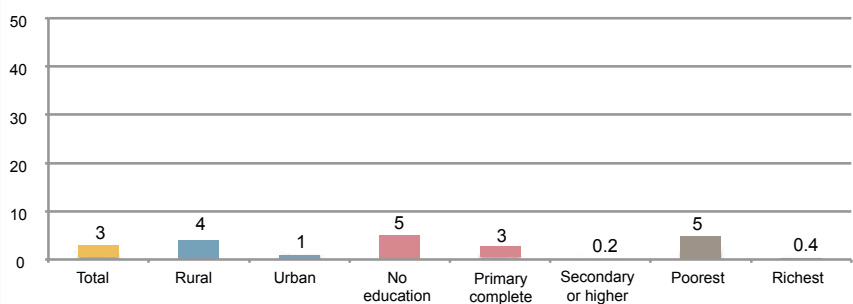
Percentage of girls and women aged 15 to 49 years who have undergone FGM/C, by region



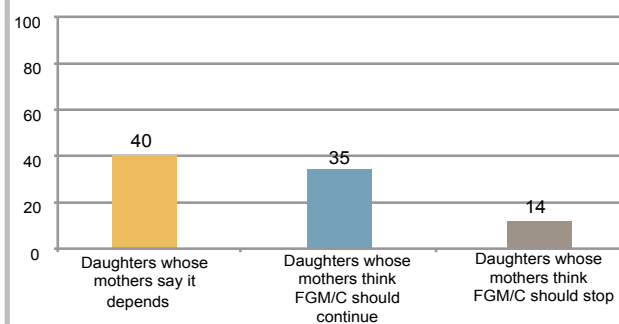
Percentage of girls and women aged 15 to 49 years who have undergone FGM/C, by residence and household wealth quintile



Percentage of girls and women aged 15 to 49 years with at least one living daughter who has undergone FGM/C, by residence, mother's education and household wealth quintile



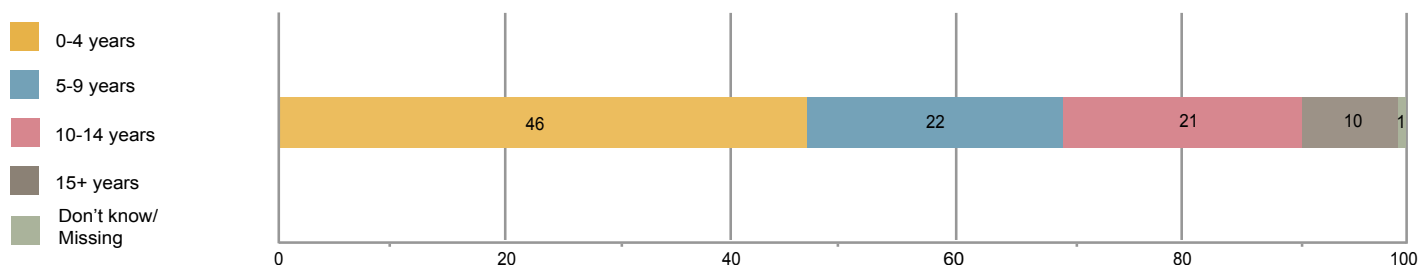
Among daughters of cut girls and women, the percentage of those who have undergone FGM/C, by mothers' attitudes about whether the practice should continue



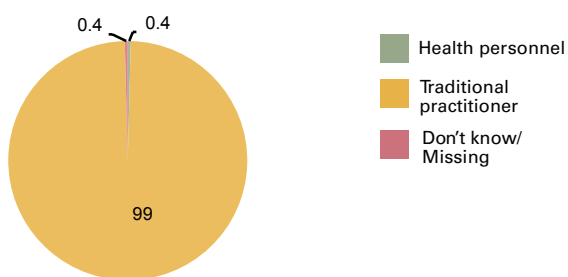
WHEN AND HOW IS FGM/C PERFORMED?

Almost half of girls experience the practice before age 5

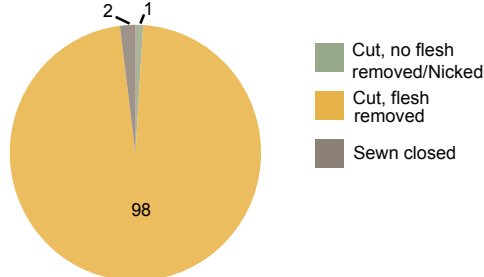
Percentage distribution of girls and women aged 15 to 49 years with at least one living daughter who has undergone FGM/C, by age at which cutting occurred



Percentage distribution of girls and women aged 15 to 49 years with at least one living daughter who has undergone FGM/C, according to the type of person/practitioner performing the procedure



Percentage distribution of girls and women aged 15 to 49 years with at least one living daughter who has undergone FGM/C, by type of FGM/C performed



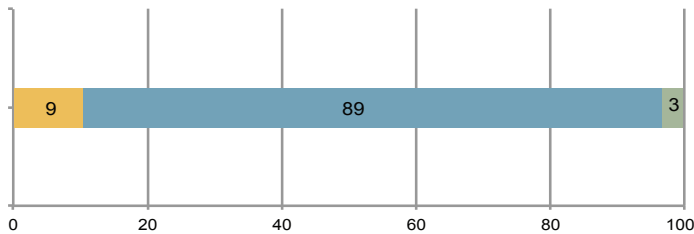
Notes: The boundaries and the names shown and the designations used on the map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations. Only categories with 25 or more unweighted cases are presented. Due to rounding, some of the data presented may not add up to 100 per cent. There is no ethnicity or religion data for Tanzania. Data on the prevalence of FGM/C among daughters whose mothers say it depends are based on 25-49 unweighted cases. 'Health personnel' includes doctors, nurses, midwives and other health workers; 'Traditional practitioner' includes traditional circumcisers, traditional birth attendants, traditional midwives and other types of traditional practitioners.

WHAT ARE THE PREVAILING ATTITUDES TOWARDS FGM/C?

Most couples in Tanzania agree that FGM/C should stop

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

■ Think FGM/C should continue ■ Think FGM/C should stop ■ Say it depends/are not sure



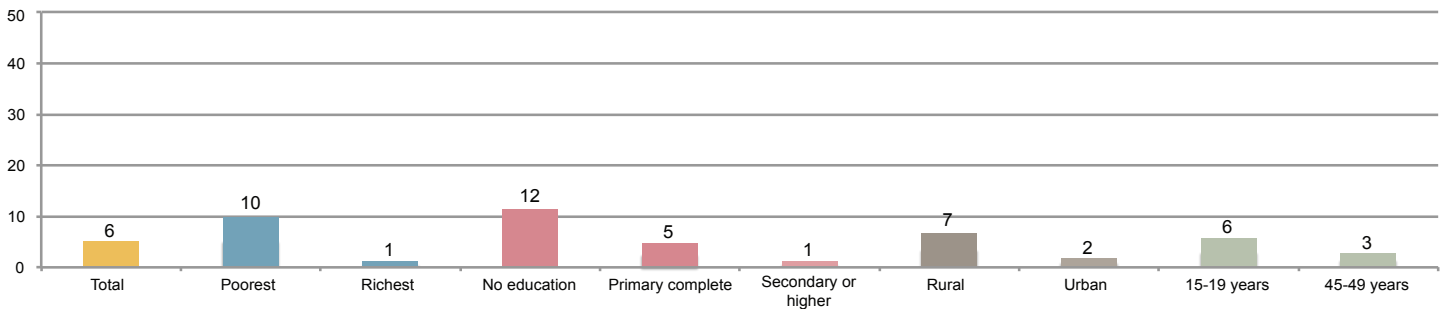
Source: DHS 2004-2005

Among cohabiting couples, percentage of girls and women aged 15 to 49 years and percentage of boys and men aged 15 to 49 years who have heard about FGM/C, according to their agreement/disagreement on whether FGM/C should continue or be discontinued

Both want FGM/C to continue	1
Both want FGM/C to stop	81
Both are undecided	0
Discordant	18

Source: DHS 2004-2005

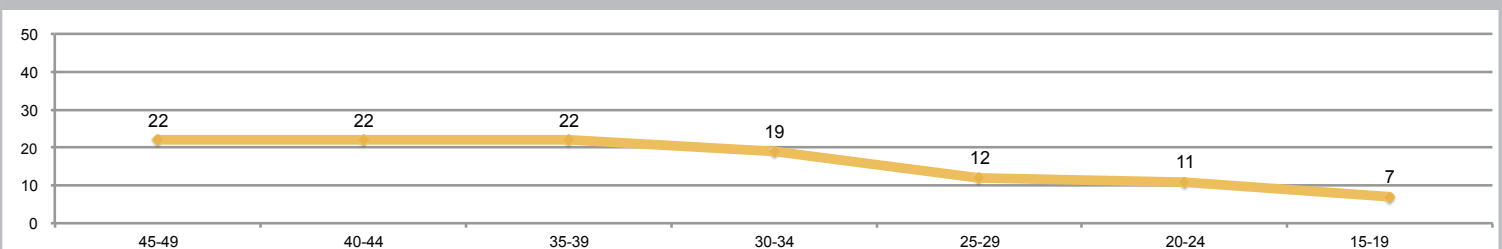
Percentage of girls and women aged 15 to 49 years who have heard about FGM/C and think the practice should continue, by household wealth quintile, education, residence and age



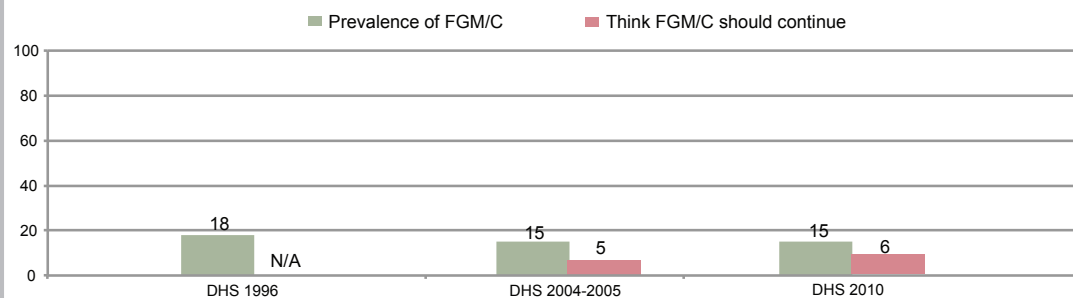
IS THE PRACTICE OF FGM/C CHANGING?

There is evidence of significant generational change in the prevalence of FGM/C in Tanzania as women aged 45-49 are three times more likely to have been cut than girls aged 15-19

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



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



Notes: N/A = not available. There are no ethnicity data for Tanzania. Data on women's attitudes cannot be directly compared with men's attitudes since the data source for girls and women is more recent than that for boys and men. Data on attitudes towards FGM/C were not collected in the DHS 1996.

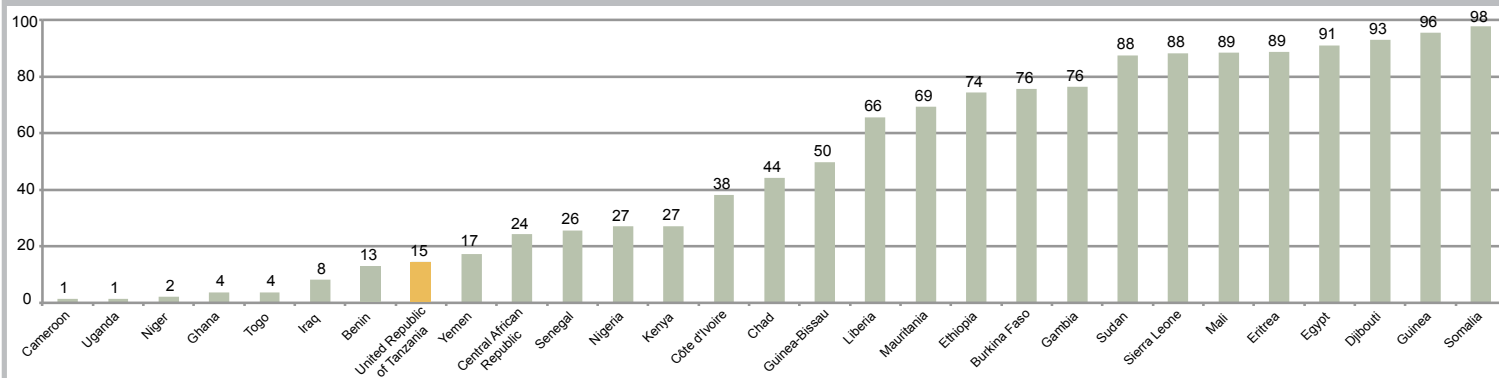
Source for all of the above charts: DHS 2010, unless otherwise noted

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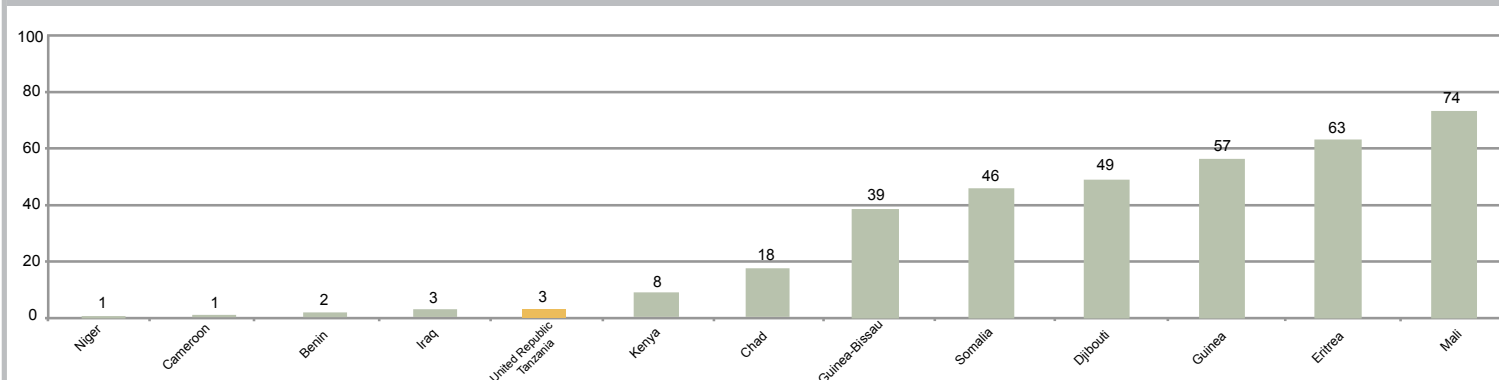


INTER-COUNTRY STATISTICAL OVERVIEW

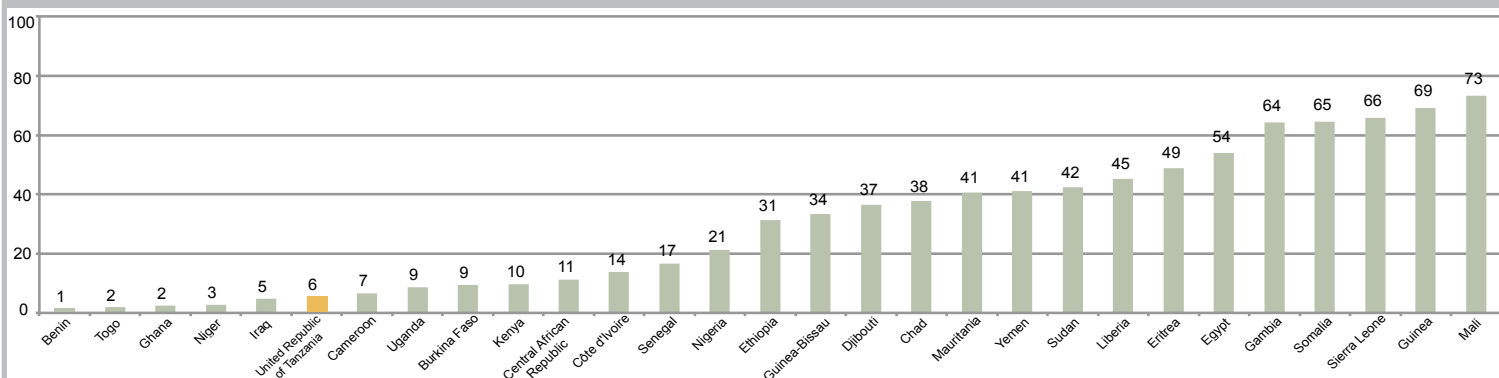
Percentage of girls and women aged 15 to 49 years who have undergone FGM/C



Percentage of girls and women aged 15 to 49 years with at least one living daughter who has undergone FGM/C



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



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. Data on daughters for Iraq refer to ever-married girls and women with at least one daughter who has undergone FGM/C. Data on attitudes for Ghana are from MICS 2006, for Nigeria from DHS 2008, 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.

Sources: DHS, MICS, National Social Protection Monitoring Survey and SHHS, 1997-2012

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FOR MORE INFORMATION

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