

# Central African Republic



24.2%<sup>1</sup>

## Key Findings

The prevalence of FGM in women aged 15-49 is 7.3%.  
About 90% of men and women believe the practice should not continue.<sup>2</sup>

### Geography:

In 2006, more than half of girls aged 0-14 who had undergone FGM were cut between the ages of 10 and 14<sup>3</sup>

### Age:

85.3% of women aged 15-49 who have undergone FGM were cut before the age of 15<sup>4</sup>

### Type:

'Flesh removed' is the most common type of FGM practised<sup>5</sup>

### Agent:

Approximately 89% of girls aged 0-14 who have undergone FGM were cut by a traditional practitioner<sup>6</sup>

## Development Indicators

**HDI Rank:** 188 out of 188 countries (2015)<sup>7</sup>

**Population:** 5,084,422 (as at 8 June 2017), with a 2.12% growth rate (2016 est.)<sup>8</sup>

**Infant Mortality Rate:** 92 deaths per 1,000 live births (2015)<sup>9</sup>

**Maternal Mortality Ratio:** 882 deaths per 100,000 live births (2015)<sup>10</sup>

**Literacy:** 36.8% of the total population aged 15 and over can read/write<sup>11</sup>

*'The more we talk the better . . . [b]ut to fully eradicate FGM we need to have the authorities on our side enforcing the law.'*

*~ Marguerite Ramadan, President of CIAF/CAR (2009)<sup>12</sup>*

## Prevalence

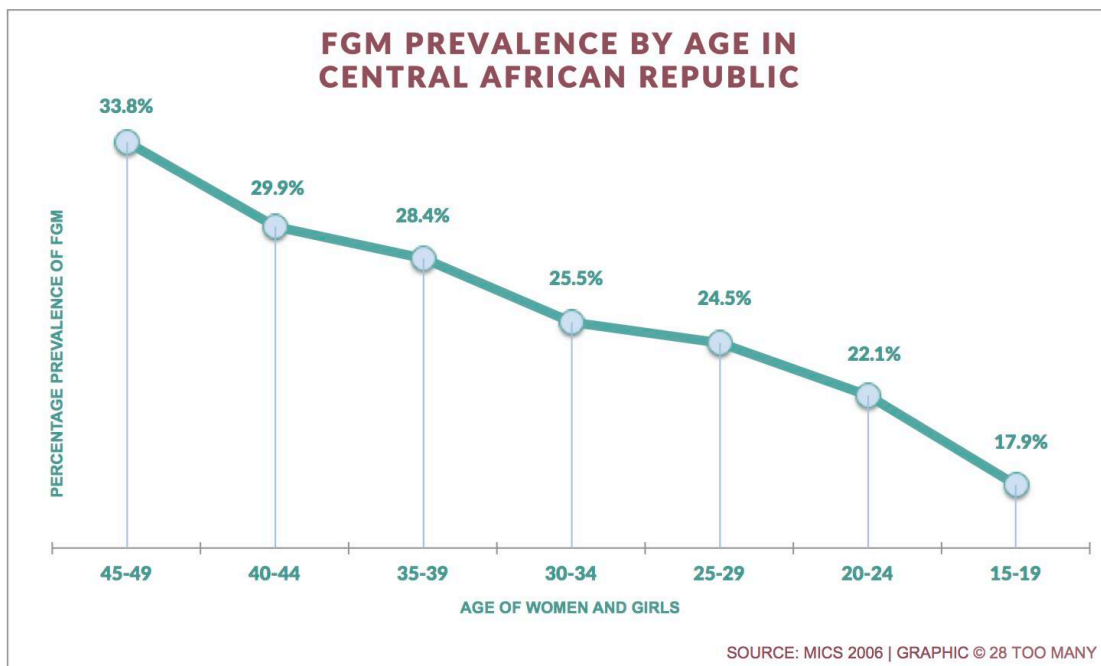
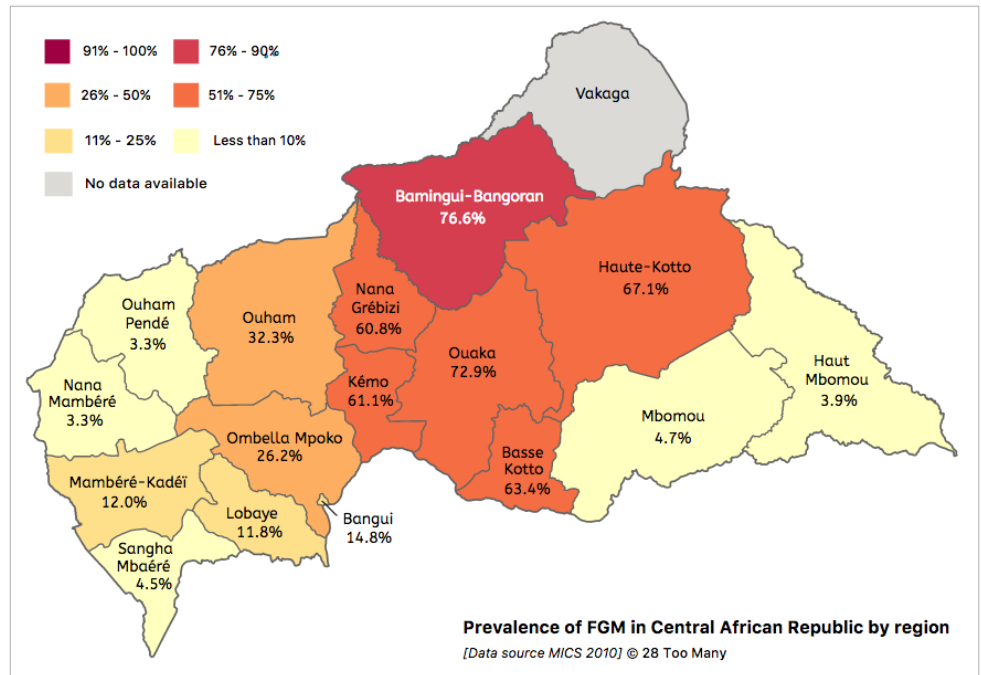
FGM is practised across all prefectures and ethnic groups in the CAR. The prefectures with the highest prevalence are in the centre of the country: Bamingui-Bangoran (76.6%), Ouaka (72.9%) and Haute-Kotto (67.1%). The prefectures with the lowest prevalence are all 3-4%. Women aged 15-49 who live in rural areas are more likely to undergo FGM (28.7%) than those who live in urban areas (18.1%).

Prevalence of FGM is inversely correlated with level of wealth.

The highest prevalence of FGM is found in households where the head is of Banda ethnicity (53.4% of women aged 15-49); the lowest is found in households where the head is of Mboum ethnicity (2.6%).<sup>13</sup>

Between 2006 and 2010, the overall prevalence for women aged 15-49 fell from 25.7% to 24.2%. Due to the large age-range of women included, however, the overall prevalence alone may not fully

reflect the progress that has been made in recent years. Breaking down the most recent data by age group shows that the prevalence for women aged 45-49 is 33.8%, while for the youngest age group this has fallen to 17.9%. Despite the fact that a small proportion of women may be cut after the age of 15, the data demonstrates a clear trend towards lower prevalences among younger women.<sup>14</sup>



## Central African Law

The Central African Government passed legislation in 1966 that specifically prohibits FGM (Order No. 66/16 of 22 February 1966), but to date no convictions have been made. In 2006, Law No. 06032 on the protection of women against violence was introduced, which contains provisions on FGM.<sup>15</sup>

- 1 (**'MICS'**): ICASEES (2010) *Enquête par grappes à indicateurs multiples MICS, RCA 2010 Rapport final*, pp.241-242. Bangui, RCA ICASEES. Available at [https://mics-surveys-prod.s3.amazonaws.com/MICS4/West%20and%20Central%20Africa/Central%20African%20Republic/2010/Final/Central%20African%20Republic%202010%20MICS\\_French.pdf](https://mics-surveys-prod.s3.amazonaws.com/MICS4/West%20and%20Central%20Africa/Central%20African%20Republic/2010/Final/Central%20African%20Republic%202010%20MICS_French.pdf) (accessed 8 June 2017).
- 2 DHS, pp.332 & 340.
- 3 UNICEF (2013) *Central African Republic: Statistical Profile on Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting*, p.2. Available at [https://data.unicef.org/wp-content/uploads/country\\_profiles/Central%20African%20Republic/FGMC\\_CAF.pdf](https://data.unicef.org/wp-content/uploads/country_profiles/Central%20African%20Republic/FGMC_CAF.pdf) (accessed 8 June 2017).
- 4 DHS, p.333.
- 5 MICS, p.242.
- 6 UNICEF, *op. cit.*, p.2.
- 7 United Nations Development Programme (2015) *Human Development Index*. Available at <http://hdr.undp.org/en/indicators/137506> (accessed 16 May 2017).
- 8 - Country Meters (2017) *Central African Republic*, 8 June 2017. Available at [http://countrymeters.info/en/Central\\_African\\_Republic](http://countrymeters.info/en/Central_African_Republic) (accessed 8 June 2017).  
- Central Intelligence Agency (2016) *World Factbook: Central African Republic*, 30 May. Available at <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/ct.html> (accessed 8 June 2017).
- 9 Countdown to 2030 (2015) *A Decade of Tracking Progress for Maternal, Newborn and Child Survival The 2015 Report: Central African Republic*. Available at [http://countdown2030.org/documents/2015Report/CAR\\_2015.pdf](http://countdown2030.org/documents/2015Report/CAR_2015.pdf) (accessed 8 June 2017).
- 10 WHO, UNICEF, UNFPA, World Bank Group and United Nations Population Division Maternal Mortality Estimation Inter-Agency Group (2015) *Maternal mortality in 1990-2015: Central African Republic*. Available at [http://www.who.int/gho/maternal\\_health/countries/caf.pdf?ua=1](http://www.who.int/gho/maternal_health/countries/caf.pdf?ua=1) (accessed 8 June 2017).
- 11 Central Intelligence Agency, *op. cit.*
- 12 UN Children's Fund (2009) 'Partnering to change norms and abandon female genital cutting in Central African Republic', *ReliefWeb*, 6 February. Available at <http://reliefweb.int/report/central-african-republic/partnering-change-norms-and-abandon-female-genital-cutting-central> (accessed 8 June 2017).
- 13 MICS, pp.241-242.
- 14 - MICS, pp.241-242.  
- ICASEES (2009) *Enquête par Grappe à Indicateurs Multiples, couplée avec la Sérologie VIH et Anémie 2006*. Bangui, RCA ICASEES, p.186. Available at [https://mics-surveys-prod.s3.amazonaws.com/MICS3/West%20and%20Central%20Africa/Central%20African%20Republic/2006/Final/Central%20African%20Republic%202006%20MICS\\_French.pdf](https://mics-surveys-prod.s3.amazonaws.com/MICS3/West%20and%20Central%20Africa/Central%20African%20Republic/2006/Final/Central%20African%20Republic%202006%20MICS_French.pdf) (accessed 8 June 2017).
- 15 Orchid Project (undated) *Central African Republic*. Available at <https://orchidproject.org/country/central-african-republic/> (accessed 8 June 2017).

**UNICEF Statistical Profile on Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting:**

UNICEF (2013) *Central African Republic: Statistical Profile on Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting*. Available at [https://data.unicef.org/wp-content/uploads/country\\_profiles/Central%20African%20Republic/FGMC\\_CAF.pdf](https://data.unicef.org/wp-content/uploads/country_profiles/Central%20African%20Republic/FGMC_CAF.pdf) (accessed 8 June 2017).

**Images on website:**

- 1 Pierre Holtz/UNICEF (2007) *School Children in the Central African Republic*. Available at <https://flic.kr/p/2pjxNf>. CCL: <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/2.0/>.
- 2 Sergey Uryadnikov (2008) *DZANGA-SANHA FOREST RESERVE, CENTRAL-AFRICAN REPUBLIC (CAR), AFRICA, 2008 NOVEMBER 2: Jungle of CAR. Africa. Jungle of the Central-African Republic. Baka woman cooks food, crushing a flour in a mortar*. Shutterstock ID 349411682.
- 3 sandis sveicers (2014) *Central African Republic-July 17 unidentified boys and girls posing at streets of Bangui on July 17, 2014 in Bangui, Central African Republic*. Shutterstock ID 210438694.