

## FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION (FGM) UGANDA, 2021



**Introduction:** Female genital mutilation (FGM) is a practice that involves altering or injuring the female genitalia for non-medical reasons, and it is internationally recognized as a human rights violation (UNFPA, 2021).



### FGM Prevalence Rates

- The prevalence of FGM among women aged 15-49 was at 0.3% in 2016 down from 0.6% in 2006 (Uganda Demographic Health Survey 2006 and 2016). FGM prevalence by residence: Urban; 0.18% in 2016 up from 0.17% in 2006. Rural: 0.37% in 2016 down from 0.74% in 2006.
- The FGM prevalence rate across Karamoja and Sebei: 68 percent for women aged 45 and 8 percent for girls aged 15-24 (FGM survey 2016, UBOS).
- 50% of women in most of the sub counties in Karamoja and Sebei undergone FGM.



### FGM Awareness

- 5 in 10 (54.64%) women were aware of FGM in 2016 up, from about 3 in 10 (33.78%) in 2006 (UDHS 2006 and 2016).
- Urban: 6 in 10 (64.45%) women were aware of FGM in 2016 up from 4 in 10 women in 2006 (UDHS 2006 and 2016).
- Rural: 5 in 10 (50.69%) women were aware in 2016 up from 3 in 10 (33.78%) in 2006.



### The six FGM practicing districts in Eastern Uganda

- 26.7 percent of women aged 15-49 practice FGM in the districts of Kween, Bukwo, Kapchorwa, Moroto, Nakapiripirit and Amudat. Moroto district registered the highest percentage 51.5% followed by Nakapiripirit 49.2%, Amudat 43%, Bukwo 27.7%, Kween 21% and Kapchorwa 12.9% (FGM Survey 2016, UBOS)
- 68% of women aged 45 and above undergone FGM by 2016. FGM law was passed in 2010, meaning most of the women were then mutilated.



- The prevalence of FGM among girls aged 15-24 years was at 8%.
- The overall mean age at circumcision was about 17 years (FGM Survey 2016, UBOS).
- Karamoja districts had lower mean age at circumcision than Sebei districts.
- The majority (97%) of the survey participants reported to have heard about circumcision but less than half 40.8% heard of FGM in the past 12 months (FGM Survey 2016, UBOS).

### Contributors to FGM decision in Karamoja and Sebei

- In the six survey districts, about 4 in 10 (35.1%) of the women reported that FGM decisions involved mothers followed by friends, with 2 in 10 (24.3%) women.
- 5 in 10 (54.1%) women in Kapchorwa and 6 in 10 (63%) in Nakapiripirit reported mothers (FGM Survey 2016, UBOS).
- 3 in 10 (mothers 33.3%) women reported involvement of mothers in FGM decision and 3 in 10 (fathers 30.9%) reported involvement of fathers.
- The involvement of friends in FGM decisions were mainly in Moroto (36.9%) and Bukwo (33.7%) (FGM Survey 2016, UBOS).

### Women's attitudes and opinions towards FGM

- 9 in 10 (94.8%) of women aged 15-49 years living in FGM practicing sub counties are in favor of ending the practice.
- 7 in 10 (72.1%) women reported that they would encourage relatives/community members against cutting girls.
- 91% of women age 45 in the six FGM practicing districts in Eastern Uganda are in support of abandonment of FGM (FGM Survey 2016, UBOS).

### Women's opinions on benefits of FGM

- Only 12% of women believe that FGM makes a woman complete and less than 1 in 10 thought that it makes a woman clean and faithful.
- 21% believed that FGM makes a girl acceptable to her peers and acceptable for marriage (FGM Survey 2016, UBOS).
- 17% believed FGM 'makes a girl acceptable for marriage and 14% that 'makes women to satisfy their husbands
- In Kween 27% and 25% believed FGM makes girl acceptable for marriage and for satisfaction of their husbands respectively.
- In Moroto, 48% said FGM 'makes a girl acceptable by peers and 51% in Abim, Nakapiripirit 25% 'makes a girl acceptable for marriage (FGM Survey 2016, UBOS).

### Women's knowledge on FGM law

- 8 in 10 (84%) of women knew about the anti-FGM law. Among those who knew about the law and 97 in 100 (97%) knew that the practice is illegal in Uganda and
- 99 in 100 (99%) knew that the law requires perpetrators to be reported to the authorities (FGM Survey 2016, UBOS).



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