

FGM AS A GLOBAL CRISIS

Throughout the years, IPPF has been among the primary responders to the FGM crisis worldwide, whether through its global or regional initiatives or through the projects implemented by its Member Associations (MAs). Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) continues to impact millions of girls and women globally,

violating their rights and threatening their health, well-being, and futures. Despite international and national efforts to end FGM, progress remains slow due to deep-rooted cultural beliefs and lack of access to rights-based education.

INTEGRATING FGM INTO COMPREHENSIVE SEXUALITY EDUCATION (CSE)

Is a strategic and practical approach to prevention and empowerment.

FGM's existence, despite the long history of global efforts, manifests itself as a worldwide threat to girl's and women's health as well as places itself as a tool to forcefully demonise social and gender norms, weakening the position of women in society.

230 MILLION
GIRLS AND WOMEN ALIVE
WHO HAVE UNDERGONE FGM¹

Among them, it is estimated that 2 million cases of FGM occurred due to COVID19-, compounded by multiple crises since 2019².



Through global and regional statistics, it becomes evident that **girls and young women under the age of 25 are disproportionately affected**, and an estimated 4 million girls are at risk of undergoing FGM every year. According to WHO FGM cost calculations, **the treatment of the health complications of FGM is estimated to cost health systems US\$ 1.4 billion per year⁴, a number expected to rise unless urgent action is taken towards its abandonment, especially the medical sector is becoming a new conductor for the harmful practice, as it accounts today for over 20 Million cases globally that were performed by a health care provider between the age of 0 days to 15 years⁵.**

In many cultures, it is seen as a rite of passage, with the belief that it ensures a girl's purity, family honour, and eligibility for marriage. As a result, millions of girls are subjected to FGM at an age when they are

unable to give consent or understand the lifelong consequences of the practice. Those facts mentioned above make FGM not only a public health concern but also a **grave child protection and youth rights issue.**

4
MILLION
GIRLS
ARE AT RISK OF
UNDERGOING FGM
EVERY YEAR³

¹ UNICEF global data base 2018
² 2022 FGM Annual Report.pdf
³ World Health Organization (WHO)
⁴ FGM Cost Calculator
⁵ UNICEF global data base 2018

MEMBERS ASSOCIATIONS PROGRAMS TO END FGM

The intervention of IPPF in FGM through its MAs program remains remarkable as it benefits from its worldwide presence and the uniqueness of the SRHR mandate.

However, the efforts of the MAS and their contribution to the movement of ending FGM are remarkable, as in 2024, **2 million** services were provided to FGM clients, whereas only **45k were marked as survivors who had undergone the practice itself and who received specialised medical and psychological support care.**

IPPF Member Associations play a pivotal role in advancing efforts to end Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) through integrated, community-based approaches. Across regions where FGM remains prevalent, IPPF's MAs implement targeted interventions that combine **education, advocacy, and service provision.** Those programs are grounded in **rights-based and youth-centred approaches**, ensuring that women and

girls—particularly those at risk or affected by FGM—receive comprehensive care, including **psychosocial support, medical treatment, and counselling.** MAs also engage local stakeholders such as **religious leaders, traditional practitioners, educators, and parents** to shift harmful norms and promote alternative rites of passage. In countries such as **Egypt, Sudan, Somaliland, and Yemen,** IPPF-supported MAs have developed **community awareness campaigns, peer education programs, and legal advocacy initiatives** that challenge the social acceptance of FGM.

IN 2024
2 MILLION SERVICES
were provided to FGM clients

ONLY 45K
WERE MARKED AS SURVIVORS



THE IMPORTANCE OF INCLUDING FGM IN CSE

Comprehensive Sexuality Education (CSE) is a transformative tool that empowers young people with the knowledge and skills to understand their bodies, assert their rights, and promote gender equality. When delivered effectively, CSE acts as a preventive intervention, reaching children and adolescents before harmful social norms—such as those that perpetuate Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)—become deeply rooted. Globally, 4 million girls under the age of 15 are at risk of undergoing FGM each year (WHO), highlighting the urgent need to intervene early.

CSE programs that integrate FGM-related content will help foster critical thinking, challenge traditional gender roles, and promote bodily autonomy. This is particularly vital considering that 46% of all IPPF-provided services in 2024 were delivered to young people under 25, and over 27.7 million youth completed a quality-assured CSE curriculum. By equipping young people with accurate information and inclusive education, CSE enables them to become agents of change in their

communities—paving the way toward a future free from FGM and other forms of gender-based violence.

The integration of FGM content within Comprehensive Sexuality Education (CSE) demonstrates its growing significance among the Member Associations (MAs) of IPPF's Arab World Regional Office (AWRO). According to the recent FGM in CSE survey assessment led by AWRO in late 2024, 5 out of 8 respondent MAs reported actively using CSE as a strategic tool to raise awareness about FGM across various age groups—particularly among adolescents and youth. This grassroots-level engagement reflects a proactive initiative by the MAs, who recognise the critical need to address FGM through education and awareness. By incorporating FGM into their CSE programs, these MAs are not only promoting awareness to communities but also advancing the frontlines in the fight against this harmful practice.

⁶ IPPF FGM SURVEY 2024
⁷ World Health Organization (WHO)
⁸ IPPF 2024 DATA

FGM AS A GLOBAL CRISIS

Throughout the years, IPPF has been among the primary responders to the FGM crisis worldwide, whether through its global or regional initiatives or through the projects implemented by its Member Associations (MAs). Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) continues to impact millions of girls and women globally,

violating their rights and threatening their health, well-being, and futures. Despite international and national efforts to end FGM, progress remains slow due to deep-rooted cultural beliefs and lack of access to rights-based education.

INTEGRATING FGM INTO COMPREHENSIVE SEXUALITY EDUCATION (CSE)

Is a strategic and practical approach to prevention and empowerment.

FGM's existence, despite the long history of global efforts, manifests itself as a worldwide threat to girl's and women's health as well as places itself as a tool to forcefully demonise social and gender norms, weakening the position of women in society.

230 MILLION
GIRLS AND WOMEN ALIVE
WHO HAVE UNDERGONE FGM¹

Among them, it is estimated that 2 million cases of FGM occurred due to COVID19-, compounded by multiple crises since 2019².



Through global and regional statistics, it becomes evident that **girls and young women under the age of 25 are disproportionately affected**, and an estimated 4 million girls are at risk of undergoing FGM every year. According to WHO FGM cost calculations, **the treatment of the health complications of FGM is estimated to cost health systems US\$ 1.4 billion per year⁴, a number expected to rise unless urgent action is taken towards its abandonment, especially the medical sector is becoming a new conductor for the harmful practice, as it accounts today for over 20 Million cases globally that were performed by a health care provider between the age of 0 days to 15 years⁵.**

In many cultures, it is seen as a rite of passage, with the belief that it ensures a girl's purity, family honour, and eligibility for marriage. As a result, millions of girls are subjected to FGM at an age when they are

unable to give consent or understand the lifelong consequences of the practice. Those facts mentioned above make FGM not only a public health concern but also a **grave child protection and youth rights issue.**

4
MILLION
GIRLS
ARE AT RISK OF
UNDERGOING FGM
EVERY YEAR³

¹ UNICEF global data base 2018
² 2022 FGM Annual Report.pdf
³ World Health Organization (WHO)
⁴ FGM Cost Calculator
⁵ UNICEF global data base 2018

MEMBERS ASSOCIATIONS PROGRAMS TO END FGM

The intervention of IPPF in FGM through its MAs program remains remarkable as it benefits from its worldwide presence and the uniqueness of the SRHR mandate.

However, the efforts of the MAS and their contribution to the movement of ending FGM are remarkable, as in 2024, **2 million** services were provided to FGM clients, whereas only **45k were marked as survivors who had undergone the practice itself and who received specialised medical and psychological support care.**

IPPF Member Associations play a pivotal role in advancing efforts to end Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) through integrated, community-based approaches. Across regions where FGM remains prevalent, IPPF's MAs implement targeted interventions that combine **education, advocacy, and service provision.** Those programs are grounded in **rights-based and youth-centred approaches**, ensuring that women and

girls—particularly those at risk or affected by FGM—receive comprehensive care, including **psychosocial support, medical treatment, and counselling.** MAs also engage local stakeholders such as **religious leaders, traditional practitioners, educators, and parents** to shift harmful norms and promote alternative rites of passage. In countries such as **Egypt, Sudan, Somaliland, and Yemen,** IPPF-supported MAs have developed **community awareness campaigns, peer education programs, and legal advocacy initiatives** that challenge the social acceptance of FGM.

IN 2024
2 MILLION SERVICES
were provided to FGM clients

ONLY 45K
WERE MARKED AS SURVIVORS



THE IMPORTANCE OF INCLUDING FGM IN CSE

Comprehensive Sexuality Education (CSE) is a transformative tool that empowers young people with the knowledge and skills to understand their bodies, assert their rights, and promote gender equality. When delivered effectively, CSE acts as a preventive intervention, reaching children and adolescents before harmful social norms—such as those that perpetuate Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)—become deeply rooted. Globally, 4 million girls under the age of 15 are at risk of undergoing FGM each year (WHO), highlighting the urgent need to intervene early.

CSE programs that integrate FGM-related content will help foster critical thinking, challenge traditional gender roles, and promote bodily autonomy. This is particularly vital considering that 46% of all IPPF-provided services in 2024 were delivered to young people under 25, and over 27.7 million youth completed a quality-assured CSE curriculum. By equipping young people with accurate information and inclusive education, CSE enables them to become agents of change in their

communities—paving the way toward a future free from FGM and other forms of gender-based violence.

The integration of FGM content within Comprehensive Sexuality Education (CSE) demonstrates its growing significance among the Member Associations (MAs) of IPPF's Arab World Regional Office (AWRO). According to the recent FGM in CSE survey assessment led by AWRO in late 2024, 5 out of 8 respondent MAs reported actively using CSE as a strategic tool to raise awareness about FGM across various age groups—particularly among adolescents and youth. This grassroots-level engagement reflects a proactive initiative by the MAs, who recognise the critical need to address FGM through education and awareness. By incorporating FGM into their CSE programs, these MAs are not only promoting awareness to communities but also advancing the frontlines in the fight against this harmful practice.

⁶ IPPF FGM SURVEY 2024
⁷ World Health Organization (WHO)
⁸ IPPF 2024 DATA

In Somaliland, FGM remains nearly universal, with a prevalence rate of 98.9% in the population. Despite a shift among girls aged 15–24 toward less vigorous types, the data still show that a percentage of 71% underwent type 3 and 4 practices, and 27% underwent type 2, with only less than 1% remaining uncut. This shift is most evident among girls attending school, as education is transforming their attitudes and perspectives. However, while school attendance correlates with changing practices, most schools are not actively engaging in FGM prevention or in supporting girls with post-FGM complications.

The Somaliland Family Health Association (SOFHA), an IPPF member association in Somaliland, surveyed targeted education communities and gathered statistics that helped tailor the FGM curriculum, which was subsequently implemented in formal education grade 8 nationwide.

The collected baseline data show that although 90% of the population expresses a desire to abandon at least the most severe forms, only 5% support total abandonment. Notably, men are more open to change than women, though social pressure on women remains high. While awareness of FGM types and their health risks is widespread, decisions are still driven by social conformity rather than knowledge gaps, and only 42% of teachers talk about FGM in schools.

90%
OF THE POPULATION
EXPRESSES A DESIRE
TO ABANDON

42%
OF TEACHERS
TALK ABOUT FGM
IN SCHOOLS



despite 84% of the survey responders acknowledging the school's potential role. Building on the identified missed opportunities within the school system, SOFHA led an ambitious support program targeting schoolgirls aged 15 to 18.

While the curriculum implementation remains an ongoing experience, we look forward to its final outcomes over the next three years.

Still, we believe this row model of comprehensive sex education (CSE) programs, which extends beyond awareness programs, has the uniqueness of engaging youth in critical thinking, fostering dialogue, and empowering teachers as agents of change. Strengthening the role of schools and integrating FGM into broader youth education efforts is crucial to shifting social norms and enabling meaningful change in the global fight against FGM.



Female Genital Mutilation

In Comprehensive Sexuality Education

