



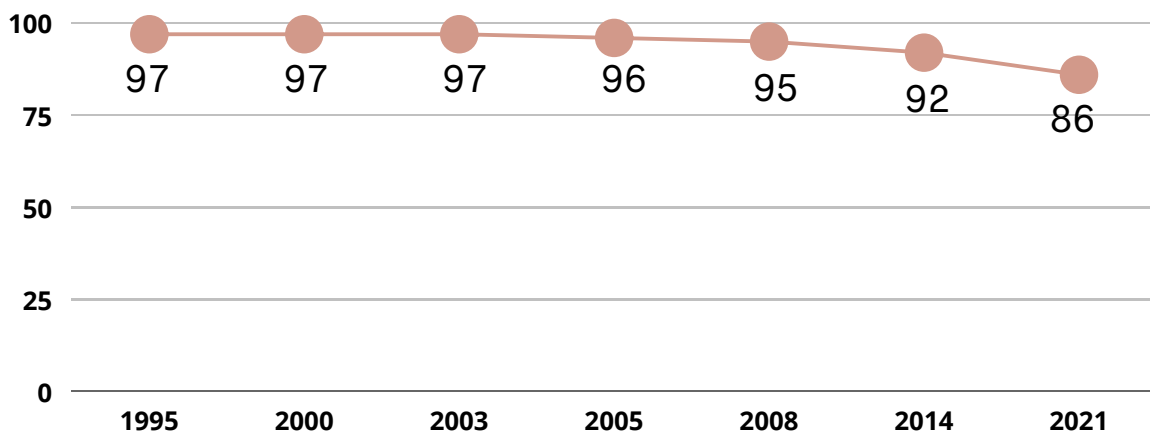
# THE INTERNATIONAL ZERO TOLERANCE DAY OF FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION (FGM)

## FGM Task Force

Press Release- 6 February 2023

The 6th of February of every year, marks the International Zero Tolerance Day of Female Genital Mutilation (FGM). In accordance, the FGM Task Force - which is composed of Egyptian feminist and Human Rights organizations fighting FGM-, urges the Egyptian State to take drastic measures and exhibit full commitment to end this violation and protect young girls from the risk of undergoing FGM.

The practice of FGM is an extreme form of violation against women and girls and is practiced in more than 30 countries all over the world. Egypt is one of the countries with the highest prevalence rate of FGM. The 2021 Egypt Family Health Survey (EFHS) stated that the prevalence rate of FGM among ever-married women between the ages 15-49 is 86% only 6% drop from the finding of the 2016 Egypt Demographic Health Survey (EDHS). These results indicate that Egypt will not reduce the overall prevalence rate of FGM to 55% as stated in the 2030 National Strategy for the Empowerment of Egyptian Women<sup>(1)</sup> and will not achieve the UN Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) No.5<sup>(2)</sup>, which states ending FGM by the year 2030. Below is an illustration that shows the changes of the FGM prevalence rate in Egypt from 1995 to 2021.



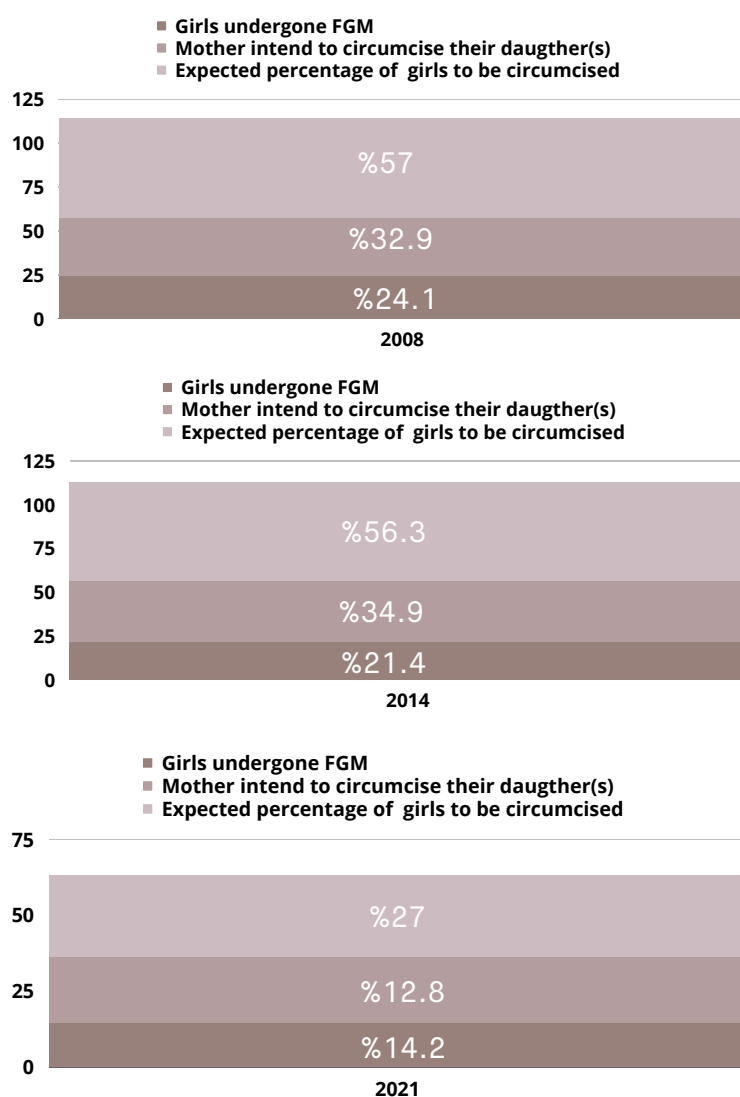
(1) [\(final-version-national-strategy-for-the-empowerment-of-egyptian-women-2030.pdf \(ncw.gov.eg](#)

(2) [Goal 5. Sustainable Development Knowledge Platform \(un.org\)](#)



The initial findings of the recently launched Egypt Family Health Survey (EFHS) indicate a drop in the expected prevalence rate of FGM among girls between the ages 0-19 from 56% in 2014 to 27% in 2021. Nevertheless, the FGM Task Force urges concerned parties to treat this finding with caution, as it is not an accurate representation of the current situation in Egypt. Girls in this cohort (0-19) might still undergo FGM in the future. Further, the wide spread knowledge of the anti-FGM law which criminalizes parents if they perform FGM might affect the reporting of future intentions of FGM. Therefore, the percentage of mothers who intent to circumcise their daughter(s) in the future can be underreported causing a high drop from 34.9% in 2014 to 12.8% in 2021. Below is a figure to illustrate the current and expected prevalence of FGM among girls between the ages 0-19 by years.

Further, **the FGM Task Force urges** the Central Agency for Public Mobilization and Statistic (CAPMAS) to issue the final report of the Egypt Family Health Survey (EFHS), which present data on different forms of violence against women including FGM. Since its launch in August 2022, the report was not issued till-date and only an executive summary is available. The absence of comprehensive and periodical data obstruct attempts to examine change in the practice along the different socio-demographic determinants such as education level, geographical location, and hinder efforts to develop effective strategies and design evidence-based interventions to end FGM in Egypt.





**The FGM Task Force also calls** for drastic measures to end the medicalization of FGM in Egypt. Egypt has the highest percentage of medicalization of the practice in the world, with more than 70% of FGM cases are performed by medical doctors. Despite the changes introduced to the anti-FGM law in 2021, which toughens penalties on doctors and others performing FGM - minimum of 10 years and a maximum of 20- still, these changes did not lead to increased reporting of FGM cases or prosecution of doctors performing this crime. Further, medical schools do not include anti-FGM messages and do not advocate against the practice. A recent study indicated that around 10% of medical students intend to perform FGM<sup>(3)</sup> after graduation.

Finally, **The FGM Task Force urges the Egyptian State** and affiliated entities to conduct and publish regularly relevant research and studies to accelerate efforts to end FGM and to promote an inclusive and transparent working environment that involves national feminist and human rights organizations working on GBV including FGM.

**Collective and inclusive efforts, producing periodical data, designing evidence based and cost effective programme is the only way to accelerate efforts to end FGM in Egypt**

(3) [دراسة استقصائية عن اتجاهات طلاب كلية الطب عن الختان - Tadwein](#)

**The FGM Task Force was established on the 6th of February 2018 from the following organisations, institutions, and coalitions:**

