

Burkina Faso

75.8%¹

Key Findings

The prevalence of FGM in women aged 15–49 is 75.8%.
More than 85% of the population is against its continuation.²

Geography:

The regions with the highest prevalence lie in the south-west and in a band across the country from the centre-east towards the north³

Age:

90.8% of women aged 15–19 who have undergone FGM were cut before the age of ten⁴

Type:

'Cut, flesh removed' is the most common type of FGM practised⁵

Agent:

Almost all FGM is carried out by 'traditional agents' (including traditional cutters and birth attendants)⁶

Development Indicators

HDI Rank: 183 out of 189 countries (2018)⁷

SDG Gender Index Rating: 126 out of 144 countries (2020)⁸

Population: 19,082,437 (as at 1 May 2017), with a 3.01% growth rate (Nov. 2016 est.)⁹

Infant Mortality Rate: 61 deaths per 1,000 live births (2015)¹⁰

Maternal Mortality Ratio: 371 deaths per 100,000 live births (2015)¹¹

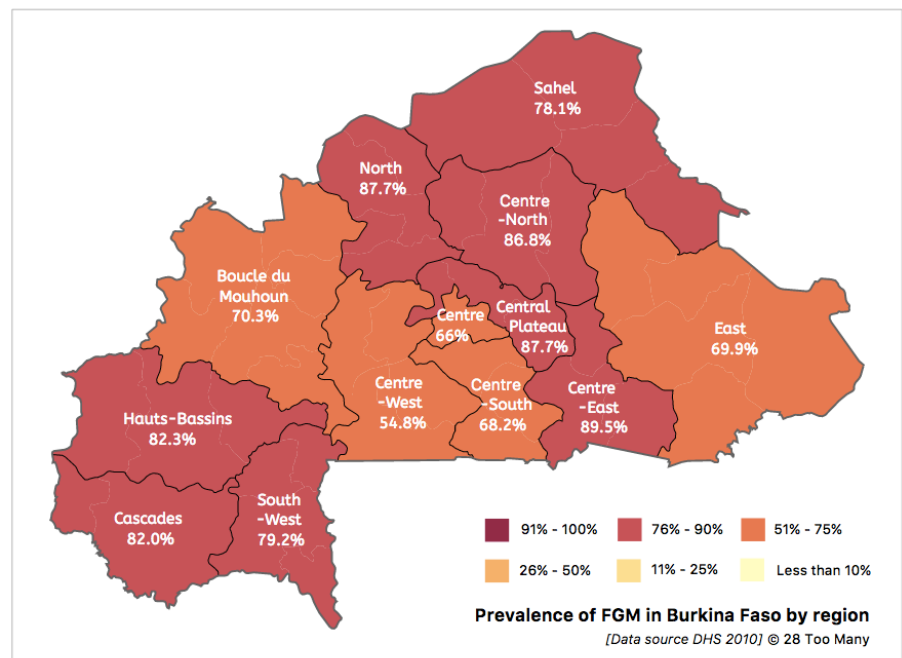
Literacy: 36% of the total population aged 15 and over can read/write¹²

'I was heartened during my time in Burkina Faso to see the level of youth involvement and enthusiasm for using songs and music to get anti-FGM messages across to the community.'
~ Dr Ann-Marie Wilson, 28 Too Many Executive Director

Prevalence

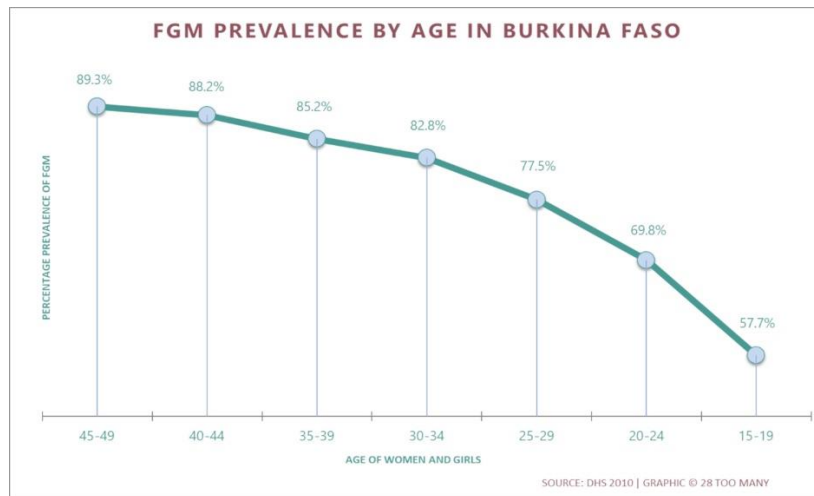
FGM is practised across all regions, ethnic groups and religions in Burkina Faso. There are distinct regional variations; FGM prevalence ranges from 54.8% in the Centre-West to 89.5% in the Centre-East. Two-thirds of the population of Burkina Faso live in rural areas, and nearly 10% more women aged 15–49 have had FGM in rural areas (78.4%) than in urban areas (68.7%). Prevalence in the capital, Ouagadougou, is 64.8%.

The regional pattern of FGM prevalence broadly corresponds with the distribution of ethnic groups: the highest-practising groups include the Séoufo (87.2%) and Lobi (83.2%) in the south-west, the Fulani (83.9%) towards the north-east, the Mossi (78.4%) across the central band and the Bissa (83.1%) mainly in Centre-East. The lowest prevalence is recorded among the Gourounsi, who live largely in Centre-West (60.3%) and the Touareg/Bella in the far north-east (22.2%).



FGM is practised by all religions: among Burkinabé women aged 15–49, 81.4% of Muslims, 75.5% of traditionalists/animists, 66.1% of Catholics and 60% of Protestants have been cut.¹³

The prevalence of FGM in women (aged 15–49) is 75.8%. This is a decrease from 76.6% in 2003. 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 89.3%, while for the youngest age group this has fallen to 57.7%. Despite the fact that a small proportion of women may be cut after the age of 15, the data demonstrates a clear trend towards a lower prevalence among younger women.¹⁴



Burkinabe Law

In 1996 Burkina Faso became one of the first African countries to introduce a national law against FGM (Article 380 of the Penal Code). A number of cases have been brought through the community-based mobile court system.

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- 1 (**'DHS'**): Institut National de la Statistique et de la Démographie (INSD) et ICF International (2012) *Enquête Démographique et de Santé et à Indicateurs Multiples du Burkina Faso 2010*, p.291. Calverton, Maryland, USA: INSD et ICF International. Available at <http://dhsprogram.com/pubs/pdf/FR256/FR256.pdf> (accessed 1 May 2017).
 - 2 DHS, pp.291 & 299.
 - 3 DHS, p.291
 - 4 DHS, p.293.
 - 5 DHS, p.291.
 - 6 DHS, p.296.
 - 7 United Nations Development Programme (2018) *Human Development Reports*. Available at <http://hdr.undp.org/en/2018-update> (accessed 12 June 2019).
 - 8 Equal Measures 2030 (2020) *Harnessing the Power of Data for Gender Equality: Introducing the 2019 EM2030 SDG Gender Index*, pp.12–13. Available at www.data.em2030.org/2019-global-report (accessed 19 January 2023).
 - 9 - Country Meters (2017) Burkina Faso, 1 May 2017. Available at http://countrymeters.info/en/Burkina_Faso (accessed 1 May 2017).
- Central Intelligence Agency (2017) *World Factbook: Burkina Faso*, 12 January. Available at <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/uv.html> (accessed 1 May 2017).
 - 10 Countdown to 2030 (2015) *A Decade of Tracking Progress for Maternal, Newborn and Child Survival The 2015 Report: Burkina Faso*. Available at http://countdown2030.org/documents/2015Report/Burkina_Faso_2015.pdf (accessed 1 May 2017).
 - 11 WHO, UNICEF, UNFPA, World Bank Group and United Nations Population Division Maternal Mortality Estimation Inter-Agency Group (2015) *Maternal mortality in 1990-2015: Burkina Faso*. Available at http://www.who.int/gho/maternal_health/countries/bfa.pdf?ua=1 (accessed 1 May 2017).
 - 12 Central Intelligence Agency, *op. cit.*
 - 13 DHS p.291.
 - 14 - DHS, p.291.
- Institut National de la Statistique et de la Démographie (INSD) et ORC Macro (2004) *Enquête Démographique et de Santé du Burkina Faso 2003*, p.205. Calverton, Maryland, USA: INSD et ORC Macro. Available at <http://dhsprogram.com/pubs/pdf/FR154/FR154.pdf> (accessed 1 May 2017).

UNICEF Statistical Profile on Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting:

UNICEF (2013) *Burkina Faso: Statistical Profile on Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting*. Available at https://data.unicef.org/wp-content/uploads/country_profiles/Burkina%20Faso/FGMC_BFA.pdf (accessed 1 May 2017).

Images on website:

- 1 Hector Conesa (2009) *BURKINA FASO – AUGUST 9: Bissa ethnic Girls pose wearing their hair characteristic, August 9, 2009 in Country Bissa, Burkina Faso*. Shutterstock ID 54724843.
- 2 Hector Conesa (2009) *BURKINA FASO – AUGUST 12: Women Lobi separating the grain, women are responsible for handling all foods, August 12, 2009 in Gaoua, Burkina Faso*. Shutterstock ID 42150619.
- 3 Hector Conesa (2009) *BURKINA FASO – AUGUST 13: Women Senoufo care of her child, the infant mortality rate in 2007 is 8.5%, August 13, 2009 in Country Senoufo, Burkina Faso*. Shutterstock ID 41915551.