

WHAT IS FGM?

Female genital mutilation (sometimes called female genital cutting) is a traditional cultural practice involving the cutting or removal of the external genitals.

It has existed for more than 2,000 years, and is performed on girls of only a few days old, up to just before marriage.

It is traditionally practised by non-medically trained women, often in unsterile conditions and without anaesthetic.

The four types are:

- clitoridectomy – clitoris or clitoral hood is cut off
- intermediate – clitoris and inner lips are removed
- infibulation – clitoris, inner and outer lips are removed. The remaining skin is stitched or sealed leaving a small opening
- other harmful procedures include piercing, pricking, stretching, scraping, burning, cutting and introducing corrosives/herbs.

The health problems caused include:

- severe loss of blood, pain or shock
- difficulties in urinating or menstruating
- increased risk of bladder infection and HIV
- mental health problems
- issues with sexuality and pain during sex
- complications, and sometimes death, in pregnancy and childbirth
- incontinence due to tears in bladder or rectum.

'Globally FGM affects one girl every 10 seconds'



CONTACT

Request our e-newsletter and read our blog on our website: 28toomany.org

Email: info@28toomany.org

Follow us on:



We are in the process of becoming a registered charity.

Registered office is situated at:
Ramsay Brown & Partners, Ramsay House,
Grange Park, London N21 1RA
The Company Registration No. is 8122211. Registered in England.

Above: Ann-Marie with a Kenyan Maasai community that has stopped practising FGM

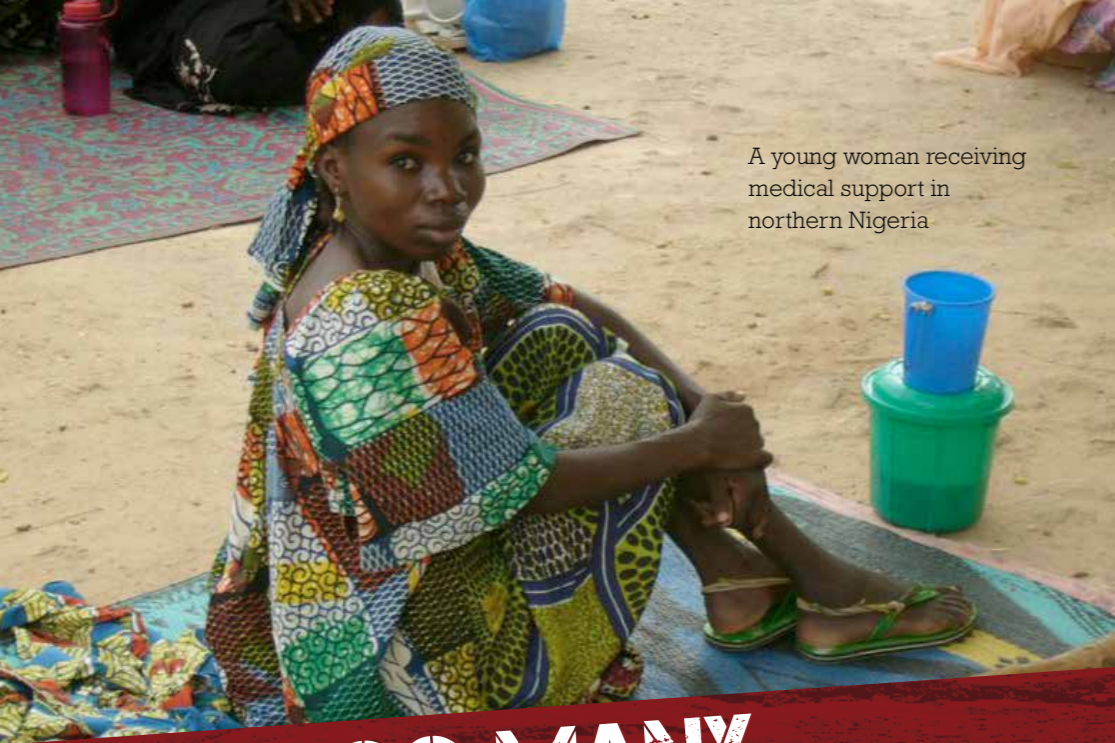
Cover: A 10 year old Ugandan girl, of the same age as the young girl who inspired Ann-Marie to set up 28 Too many

28 TOO MANY
FGM... let's end it.

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A young woman receiving medical support in northern Nigeria

28 TOO MANY

We are a charity created to end **Female Genital Mutilation**

(FGM) in the 28 African countries where it is practised.

We believe that this is **28 too many**.

Ann-Marie Wilson founded 28 Too Many after she met a 10 year old survivor of FGM and rape in West Darfur who had obstructed labour. Wanting to see the eradication of this harmful practice, Ann-Marie undertook five years of training and research to identify how she could make an impact.

The vision of 28 Too Many is to raise awareness and create effective networks to end FGM in all the communities where it takes place. This involves working in the 28 African countries where FGM is carried out and in other countries across the world where members of those communities have migrated.

WHY AND WHERE DOES IT HAPPEN?

FGM is not required by any religious holy book but it has affected over **140 million women** to date. While it is coming under increasing international scrutiny and is being legislated against by national governments, it still persists.

It is often performed to meet family or cultural expectations to:

- protect tradition and religious values
- preserve virginity, chastity and family honour
- prepare girls for becoming a woman and to enable them 'to have a good marriage'.

Girls are at risk all over the world

FGM is practised in 28 African countries and some communities in the Middle East and Asia. It also affects communities in Europe, the USA, Canada, Australia and New Zealand.

Globally, 3 million girls undergo FGM each year. In the UK alone, 75,000 women currently require FGM-related specialist healthcare.

Are girls at risk in your community?

Refugees from South Sudan learning to stand against FGM



'It has affected over **140,000,000** women'

WHAT ARE WE DOING?

Our key priorities are to:

- build an information base including detailed reports for each practising country
- develop a network of anti-FGM organisations to share knowledge, skills and resources
- campaign and advocate to bring change
- support community programmes to end FGM.

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

To make a difference, you can:

- visit our website to learn more about 28 Too Many and FGM where you can request our e-newsletter
- follow us on Facebook and Twitter
- donate via our website and encourage others to do the same
- get involved in sponsored events to raise money for 28 Too Many
- volunteer with us – we need people to research, campaign, fundraise and help with projects.

