What is FGM?

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), female genital mutilation (FGM) refers to any procedure involving total or partial removal of the external female genitalia or other injury to the female genitals for non-therapeutic reasons, such as custom and cultural, religious, social or other beliefs. By inducing ‘an irreversible reduction of human capacity’ FGM constitutes an extreme form of gender-based violence.

It is estimated that at least 200 million women and girls currently live with the consequences of this practice. Carried out on females of various ages, from newborns to women about to be married, FGM is prevalent in at least 28 countries in Africa, alongside some communities in the Middle East and Asia, and within certain ethnic groups in Central and South America. Increasingly, many countries are facing the challenge of FGM within diaspora communities.
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About 28 Too Many

28 Too Many is a charity created to end FGM in the 28 African countries where it is practised and in other countries across the world where there are diasporas of practising communities. Founded in 2010 and registered as a charity in 2012, 28 Too Many aims to provide a strategic framework where knowledge and tools enable in-country anti-FGM campaigners and organisations to be successful and make a sustainable change to end FGM. We are building an information base, which includes detailed Country Profiles for each country practising FGM in Africa and the diaspora. We also campaign and advocate locally and internationally to bring change and support community programmes to end FGM.

Our Impact

In the five years since 28 Too Many was established, we have become a leading anti-FGM voice for Africa with both key influencers and grassroots activists. Our research is being used by UN bodies, African governments, international donors, global non-profit organisations, faith leaders and local activists to help shape their on going work to end FGM in Africa.

Our work has included initial profiling of FGM in all 28 countries of practice in Africa as well as publishing in-depth Country Profiles for 11 countries: Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Kenya, Liberia, Mali, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Tanzania, The Gambia and Uganda.
“28 Too Many has been at the forefront of compiling country data and sharing crucial statistics on the many African countries affected by FGM.” Dr Faith Mwangi-Powell, Global Director, The Girl Generation
Furthermore, we have commissioned research in four thematic areas: *The Medicalisation of FGM* (published in 2016), *Law and FGM* (to be published in 2018), *Anthropology and FGM* (to be published in 2019) and *Religion and FGM* (to be published in 2020).

28 Too Many recognises that we are part of a bigger movement for change. As such it is not possible to attribute specific impacts to our efforts alone. However, in talking to stakeholders, we have learnt that we have made a substantial contribution to the changes we are seeing. These changes include:

- A global commitment to ending FGM included in the UN’s Sustainable Development Goals in 2015. Specifically, Goal 5.3 reads: *Eliminate all harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation.*

- A number of African countries have passed or strengthened legislation banning FGM since we launched 28 Too Many in 2012, including The Gambia (2016), Egypt (2016), Nigeria (2015) and Somalia (2012). The law has also changed in a number of diaspora countries, including the UK.

- This had led to an increase in prosecutions for FGM violations in several countries, including Kenya.

- FGM prevalence has been dropping in a number of countries including Benin, Chad, Cote d’Ivoire, Egypt, Eritrea, Kenya, Liberia, Niger, Nigeria and Senegal.
• Significant changes in prevalence can be observed when taking generational factors into account. Research shows that in many countries the proportion of women who have undergone FGM steadily decreases in accordance with the age of the women surveyed. For example, the DHS 2014 for Kenya shows that 40.9% of 45-to-49-year-olds had experienced FGM, compared with 11.4% of 15-to-19-year-olds. There is real hope that the next generation will be significantly less impacted.

This encouraging trend is being replicated in many of the 28 countries of practice across Africa. 28 Too Many continues to monitor these trends and provides updated analyses through our research, website and social media.
“Our generation can end FGM if we remain consistent and committed with what we are doing” Lorna Andisi, Media Consultant and FGM Campaigner, Kenya
Theory of Change

This impact is driven in part by our work to effect change through:

1. **Collating and interpreting data (research)**
   We present data in a number of ways, primarily through Country Profiles and Thematic Papers, and with additional research products (factsheets) as required. To support our aims, we make this research freely available globally.

2. **Influencing influencers (top-down approach)**
   Using the data we have collated, we engage key influencers, encouraging them to advocate for change (of policy, legislation, etc) within their spheres of influence.

3. **Supporting community change (bottom-up approach)**
   Based on our research, we develop and distribute advocacy materials, training tools and curricula that local organisations can use to bring effective change at a community level.

Ultimately, change happens when policy and legislation (top down) aligns with community action and education (bottom up). Our approach is to play a catalytic role in both and to base our interventions on our solid research.
Ann-Marie’s Thoughts

As we share this fifth annual report, we are halfway to our initial goal of seeing a 10% reduction in FGM in 10 countries in 10 years.

This year we added a second focus to our research, showing trends across all countries, with the launch of our first thematic report, *The Medicalisation of FGM* and the commissioning of our second, Law and *FGM*, due next spring. Both have been greatly welcomed.

We published our 11th and most complex Country Profile: FGM in Nigeria, where 20 million women have experienced FGM, representing 10% of the global total. We also initiated our first move into Arabic-speaking Africa, with reports on Egypt and Eritrea both launching in 2017. All our reports now have Briefing Packs for use across Africa and the diaspora, helping local organisations to engage much more effectively with the material.

We are excited to be upgrading our website, which will launch in the autumn and will contain even more important research and resources.
This year we also presented our new schools pack to the Children's Commissioner. The pack, in memory of our late Board member Gill Mullen and funded by 'Vavengers', is now available on our website following trials in several parts of the UK.

Our management team met quarterly in Europe and London to set the next five-year work plan – with a view to completing all the reports planned by 2022.

I talked at 18 key events, including international conferences in Italy, Wales, Scotland, Ireland and Keele. In Rome, we represented the UK and shared at the IAC BanFGM conference, where we met activists and ministers from over 30 countries. While there, we also met the Pope and addressed FGM in the Vatican Magazine.

Since first volunteering in Africa in 2001, I have learnt that individuals who are determined to make a difference in the world can – with desire, dedicated drive and passionate persistence. We have already seen the world bettered for those affected by FGM, and millions of women's lives can be impacted positively in the future in unimaginable ways, as we continue this work.

Thank you for your past, present and future commitment to this cause. Together, we will see an end to FGM,

Dr Ann-Marie Wilson (Executive Director)
The Board’s Thoughts

The last year has illustrated 28 Too Many’s commitment to not only ending FGM with our Country Profiles but also adding Thematic Reports to our arsenal. Our first, *The Medicalisation of FGM*, made a real impact. The board believes that producing Thematic Reports in conjunction with our Country Profiles means that 28 Too Many is the hub where individuals can obtain the most data about FGM.

Our charity has always been one that is small in stature but huge in reach and impact. Adding Thematic Reports continues this theme of dreaming big and achieving big.

We are pleased that our updated website will be launched in autumn 2017. We have been continually impressed by the dedication of the team in producing a website that will be easily accessible from smart phones. The team recognised that
optimising our website for mobile technology was the way forward and committed themselves to future-proofing our reports.

It is the team behind 28 Too Many that is the heart of the organisation. Without them we would not be able to achieve the successes that we have had in the last year. The team has grown greatly in the last year and it is with this growth that we have been able to accomplish what we have.

![Board members attended the anti-FGM exhibition by Aida Silvestri](image)

The board therefore thanks all of them for their continuing hard work and dedication to 28 Too Many and ending FGM. We also thank Ann-Marie for her energy and verve in ensuring that our aims will be realised.

_Siobhan Crawford_ (Board Chair)

**The 28 Too Many trustees are:** Dr A M Wilson (Executive Director), S M Goodson FCA (Treasurer), S Crawford (Chair), H A Warsame, J Hoover, O Garuba.
Research Update

During the 2016/17 period, 28 Too Many continued its in-depth analysis on FGM in Africa by publishing three important pieces of research:

1. Our first Thematic Report on *The Medicalisation of FGM* investigates the growing involvement of health professionals in the practice and highlights what actions need to be taken to reverse this dangerous trend. The report was published with supporting materials, including a set of Summary Leaflets and a PowerPoint Presentation.

2. Our 11th full *Country Profile: FGM in Nigeria* was a large and complex piece of research. The report received international media coverage and is providing a vital tool in the campaign to end FGM in country. A closer look at our work on Nigeria can be found on pages 17–19.
3. Kenya was the first Country Profile published by 28 Too Many back in 2013, and is a country that has seen much progress in the work to end FGM. We published a full *Country Profile Update: FGM in Kenya* this year. The report has been widely disseminated in country, including presentations by our in-country volunteer, Esther, to the Anti-FGM Board in Nairobi.

For both Nigeria and Kenya, we produced a set of supporting materials to accompany the full reports including Executive Summaries, Key Findings, Key Country Statistics and PowerPoint Presentations. All these are downloadable free from the 28 Too Many website (www.28toomany.org).

20 million women and girls in Nigeria have undergone FGM. This represents 10% of the global total

The research team has continued to monitor information and statistics available on FGM across Africa. During this period work was started for the next Country Profile on *FGM in Egypt* as well as planning for packs of accompanying materials for each of the previous Country Profile reports.
“Every girl deserves to live to her fullest potential.” Active Voices, Nigeria
2016/17 also saw detailed planning and commissioning for our next Thematic Report on the *Law and FGM*. Through Thomson Reuter’s charitable arm, TrustLaw, 28 Too Many has commissioned several international law firms to undertake a detailed analysis of legislation relating to FGM across all 28 countries plus the UK and US.

**At least 23 African countries now have laws in place that expressly prohibit FGM. There are many International laws and treaties that are also relevant to the practice**

The project will run throughout 2017 with a view to publishing a set of reports internationally in the spring of 2018. This is by far our largest piece of research to date. We have seen the law firms engage local counsel in all 30 countries to undertake the initial desk research into all international, national and local legislation relevant to FGM. On completion of this first phase during summer 2017, we will move on to collecting evidence from network partners as to the implementation of laws and seek out any examples of good practice to share.
Turning Research into Action

**Nigeria**: a country with a population of nearly 200 million across 36 states and more than 250 ethnic groups. With an FGM prevalence of 24.8% (DHS 2013), it is estimated that 20 million women and girls have undergone the practice in Nigeria. This represents 10% of the global total.

Our research process begins many months before a report is launched and requires the team to look in detail at background information from a range of sources to bring together the knowledge required to understand why FGM takes place in a country, who practises it and where, what is the role of women and their position in society, and what support mechanisms are in place for those who have had FGM or are at risk. We spend considerable time during the research period reaching out to individuals and organisations, both national and international NGOs, and faith and community groups to understand what work is being undertaken in communities to stop FGM and what progress is being made.

In Nigeria, we actively engaged several local NGOs in our research to find out more about their work and to profile their efforts in the final Country Profile. We also worked alongside media organisations such as the Guardian Global Media Campaign to share knowledge and ensure that the final research would reach as wide an audience as possible.
We published our 11th Country Profile: FGM in Nigeria in October 2016. Alongside the full report, we produced the Executive Summary and Key Findings as separate documents, together with Key Country Statistics and a PowerPoint presentation. These materials were produced for activists in Nigeria who used them to present the findings to their networks and discuss the issues through local media and television. The findings were also disseminated through international media channels, including *The Guardian*, *The Nigerian Times* and *Thomson Reuters*. On the launch day, press releases, including a video link of Ann-Marie talking about the report, were sent to key media contacts throughout Africa and the world.

“The whole 28 Too Many team have had such a profound positive influence on the work we are doing here in Nigeria on FGM.” Dr Chris Ugwu, Society for the Improvement of Rural People

The launch date for the report was chosen to coincide with the International Day of the Girl Child, which gave us a higher profile by enabling us to link into the global promotion for this day. This included a series of social media posts featuring highlights from the report as well as our participation as one of four panelists on a Twitter Chat organised by the Youth Power Initiative Nigeria. The media stories based on our research were picked up by news organisations globally as well as by activists in country and we continue to see reference to our research on Nigeria used in various media articles, on news sites and in academic papers.
Since the launch, we have also noticed an increase in FGM advocacy in Nigeria and particularly in respect to the implementation of FGM law across the country, which was one of the key points of action we raised in our report.

We maintain dialogue with grassroots organisations and we have successfully supported grant applications made by them to continue and scale up the vital work they do in communities. As we continue to build up our knowledge base on Nigeria, we share it with our partners in the network to inform their own decisions regarding future funding opportunities and areas of priority for advocacy work.

Dr Chris Ugwu, Society for the Improvement of Rural People (SIRP) presents our Nigeria report to Mr Kyrian Agbodike, the Chief of Staff of Udenu Local Government area, Enugu State at the formal launch of the Nigeria Country Profile
“Social media has the potential to change social perception, online discussions can go a long way.” Nwachukwu Kelechukwu, The Girl Generation, Nigeria
Advocacy: Influencing the Influencers

Our strategy to influence those with influence is working, resulting in significantly higher engagement with our research. We have built a number of important relationships through our targeted social media campaigns and through the research for our Country Profiles, and maintaining these contacts and developing new ones is key to our strategy.

To this end we participated in the global BanFGM conference hosted by the Inter-African Committee in Rome in January 2017. This event was an opportunity to network with key stakeholders (both government and civil society) and to influence the global
movement for ending FGM. The conference highlighted the need for our research – both the Country Profiles (many said they were a vital source of information for their work) and our new thematic research. In particular we were able to share key findings from our *Medicalisation of FGM* report, as this was a theme specifically addressed at the event. Many delegates also called for research into legal frameworks – including best practices – which will be addressed by our current law and FGM research, due for publication in March 2018.

The autumn saw Dr Wilson head to Keele University to present a paper on the medicalisation of FGM at an international
“An active community participation can #EndFGM in our generation”, Christine Gati, Youth Anti-FGM Network Kenya
conference held by Genital Autonomy. Our paper was well received and helped progress understanding of FGM to a key audience. Our team attended various FGM stakeholder meetings, including meeting with Sarah Champion and Jeremy Corbyn to discuss Labour Party policy. We followed up on asking for a UK national action plan on FGM by speaking at a Home Office roundtable at Portcullis House, prior to a select committee.

Dr Wilson was privileged to be on a panel of FGM experts at Chatham House in January, where she spoke about “The Global Challenge of Ending FGM”.

The prestigious Chatham House event, chaired by Tulip Mazumdar from the BBC, brought together experts in the field of FGM and gave great exposure to the challenges that we face. The event began with a screening of the award-winning film Omnia, by Amna Al Nowais, a documentary about a young woman’s experience of undergoing FGM. The panel discussed how FGM impacts on health, both physical and mental, and how culture adds to the complexities of the work to end FGM.
Supporting Community Change

We know from feedback that our research is used both in the UK and overseas. Our focus this year has been to significantly increase the accessibility of our material, especially in Africa. In order to do so, we undertook a multi-pronged approach, including repackaging of our research into Briefing Packs, increasing our social media reach and restructuring our website. Next year we will also be translating some more of our material into French and Arabic.

We developed Briefing Packs for all of the research we launched in 2016/17. These have been significant in increasing our reach and are a key tool in our work. These packs include: Executive Summary, Key Findings, a presentation and Key Statistics. With each launch we make these products available to key partners on the ground, who then use them in their advocacy work.
Social media has become a major part of FGM advocacy. More and more people are communicating and sharing information using channels such as Twitter and Facebook. This enables millions of people to be reached and anti-FGM messages and success stories to be shared worldwide. Over the last year, we have successfully engaged with anti-FGM campaigners and organisations throughout Africa and the rest of the world. As well as joining global campaigns such as 16 Days of Activism Against GBV, we also use social media to work with activists and to publicise the work being done to end FGM. In addition, social media posts are used to highlight events, promote our research and to disseminate important FGM news as well as for regular posts such as ‘Motivation Monday’ or ‘Charity Tuesday’.

Social media is also a key tool in the launch of our reports; for example, we took part in a Twitter chat organised by the Youth Power Initiative in Nigeria in order to
launch our Nigerian research. We often work together with partner organisations. On Zero Tolerance Day we organised a Twitter chat on Youth Ending FGM with The Girl Generation Youth Network members from Gambia, Kenya and Nigeria. A range of organisations, including Action Aid, have taken part in our social media campaigns.

Our website is currently being upgraded from a ‘brochure’ to a ‘resource library’. This restructuring will make 28 Too Many’s research products and training resources much more accessible – creating a ‘one-stop-shop’ for those engaged in anti-FGM work in Africa.
“FGM violates women’s rights, together we can end gender violence in one generation.”
Joy Tiku Enighe, Nigeria
Financial Information

28 Too Many is in a strong financial position. Once again we ended the year with cash reserves exceeding our annual operating budget. As can be seen from the figures below, the vast majority of our income comes from individual voluntary donors, rather than specifically solicited grants. This speaks to the strong reputation that we enjoy.

Incoming Resources

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<th>Apr 15 - Mar 16</th>
<th>Apr 16 - Mar 17</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Voluntary donations</td>
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<td>Grants</td>
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<td>Investment income</td>
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<td>£97</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Income</td>
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<td>£106,242</td>
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Expenditure

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<th>Apr 15 - Mar 16</th>
<th>Apr 16 - Mar 17</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Charitable activities</td>
<td>£66,323</td>
<td>£82,561</td>
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<tr>
<td>Governance costs</td>
<td>£5,721</td>
<td>£958</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Operating Expenses</td>
<td>£72,044</td>
<td>£83,519</td>
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*NOTE: 2015/16 accounts restated.*
Thank you

28 Too Many gratefully acknowledges the many individual donors who share our vision and give generous donations to fund our work. We also thank the charitable trusts and other organisations that have contributed to our work, including Allen Overy Foundation, Beacon High School, Church Mission Society, Christof Walter Associates, Freehold Sec, Jane Metson Foundation, St Johns Baptist Church, St Mark’s Church and other donors who wish to remain anonymous.

28 Too Many wish to thank TrustLaw, a Reuters Foundation Service, for their partnership with us on the Law and FGM research. We especially wish to thank the pro-bono teams at Latham & Watkins, Shearman & Sterling, Reed Smith and Cleary Gottlieb for the hundreds of hours they are spending on this vital international project. We would not be able to do this research without you and your networks across the world.

We also wish to extend our thanks to the many other individuals and organisations who offer support, expert advice and pro-bono services. Your help greatly encourages us and we are grateful to everyone who assists our work, especially Bolt Burdon Kemp, CARE, CMS, Mark Smith, Ramsay Brown Ltd, Rooted Support Ltd, Sharpstone Skinner Limited, Tearfund and St Barnabas Church.

Finally, we especially want to extend our thanks to all the 28 Too Many volunteers who contribute in so many ways.