

Guinea Bissau



44.9%¹

Key Findings

The prevalence of FGM in women aged 15–49 is 44.9%.
81.4% of women aged 15–49 who have heard of FGM believe it should be stopped.²

Geography:

The regions with the highest prevalence are in the east: Gabú (96.3%) and Bafatá (86.8%)³

Age:

FGM is usually practised on girls aged 4 to 14, but also on babies and women nearing marriage or giving birth⁴

Type:

'Flesh removed' is the type of FGM practised, almost universally⁵

Agent:

Almost all FGM is carried out by traditional practitioners⁶

Development Indicators

HDI Rank: 177 out of 189 countries (2018)⁷

Population: 1,932,524 (as at 23 June 2017), with a 1.88% growth rate (2016 est.)⁸

Infant Mortality Rate: 60 deaths per 1,000 live births (2015)⁹

Maternal Mortality Ratio: 549 deaths per 100,000 live births (2015)¹⁰

Literacy: 59.9% of the total population aged 15 and over can read/write¹¹

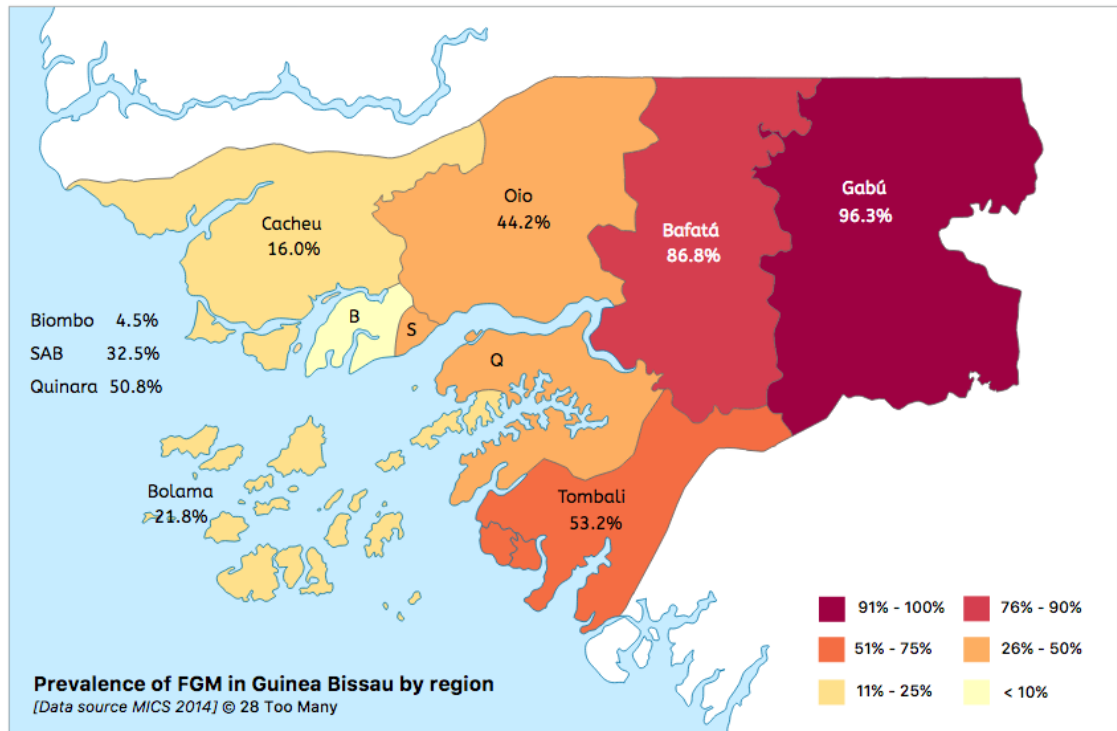
*'I will do whatever it takes to have this traumatizing practice stop.
This razor blade caused more than physical wounds in a woman's life.'*

~ Nhima Cisse, FGM survivor¹²

Prevalence

The regions in Guinea Bissau with the highest FGM prevalence among women aged 15–49 are in the east: Gabú (96.3%) and Bafatá (86.8%). There is a significant difference between these regions and the rest of Guinea Bissau, as the department with the next-highest prevalence is Tombali, at 53.2%. The region with the lowest prevalence is Cacheu, at 16%. Women aged 15–49 who live in rural areas are more likely to undergo FGM (50.1%) than those who live in urban areas (39.8%).

95% of Muslim women aged 15–49 have undergone FGM. It is much less prevalent among women of other religions in Guinea Bissau: no religious affiliation (8%); ‘other’ Christians and other religions (7%), Roman Catholics (6%), and Animists (5%).¹³



Between 2006 and 2014, the overall prevalence for women aged 15–49 stayed roughly constant (44.5% in 2006 and 44.9% in 2014). In 2006, 27.9% of women aged 15–49 who had heard of FGM stated that they believed the practice of FGM should continue, while in 2014, that figure had dropped to 12.8%, while 81.4% believed it should be stopped.¹⁴

Bissau-Guinean Law

The main law relating to FGM in Guinea Bissau is the Federal Law to Prevent, Fight and Suppress Female Genital Mutilation – Law No. 14/2011, which was passed in 2011. There is a lack of information on cases brought to court, however.

- 1 (**'MICS'**): Ministério da Economia e Finanças, Direcção Geral do Plano/Instituto Nacional de Estatística (INE) (2014) *Inquérito aos Indicadores Múltiplos (MICS5) 2014, Relatório Final*, p.236. Bissau. Guiné-Bissau: Ministério da Economia e Finanças e Direcção Geral do Plano/ Instituto Nacional de Estatística (INE). Available at https://mics-surveys-prod.s3.amazonaws.com/MICS5/West%20and%20Central%20Africa/Guinea-Bissau/2014/Final/Guinea-Bissau%202014%20MICS%20Final%20Report_Portuguese.pdf.
- 2 MICS, pp.236 & 238.
- 3 MICS, p.236.
- 4 (**'MICS 2006'**): Ministère de l'Économie - Secrétariat d'État du Plan et à l'Intégration Régionale (2006) *Enquête par Grappe Ministère de l'Économie - Secrétariat d'État du Plan et à l'Intégration Régionale (2006) Enquête par Grappes à Indicateurs Multiples, Guinée-Bissau, 2006, Rapport Final*, p.89. Bissau, Guinée-Bissau: Ministère de l'Économie - Secrétariat d'État du Plan et à l'Intégration Régionale. Available at https://mics-surveys-prod.s3.amazonaws.com/MICS3/West%20and%20Central%20Africa/Guinea-Bissau/2006/Final/Guinea-Bissau%202006%20MICS_French.pdf.
- 5 MICS 2006, p.90.
- 6 UNICEF (2013) *Guinea-Bissau: Statistical Profile on Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting*, p.2. Available at https://data.unicef.org/wp-content/uploads/country_profiles/Guinea-Bissau/FGMC_GNB.pdf (accessed 23 June 2017).
- 7 United Nations Development Programme (2018) *Human Development Reports*. Available at <http://hdr.undp.org/en/2018-update> (accessed 12 June 2019).
- 8 - Country Meters (2017) *Guinea-Bissau*, 23 June 2017. Available at <http://countrymeters.info/en/Guinea-Bissau> (accessed 23 June 2017).
- Central Intelligence Agency (2016) *World Factbook: Guinea-Bissau*, 15 June. Available at <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/pu.html> (accessed 23 June 2017).
- 9 Countdown to 2030 (2015) *A Decade of Tracking Progress for Maternal, Newborn and Child Survival The 2015 Report: Guinea-Bissau*. Available at http://countdown2030.org/documents/2015Report/Guinea-Bissau_2015.pdf (accessed 23 June 2017).
- 10 WHO, UNICEF, UNFPA, World Bank Group and United Nations Population Division Maternal Mortality Estimation Inter-Agency Group (2015) *Maternal mortality in 1990-2015: Guinea-Bissau*. Available at http://www.who.int/gho/maternal_health/countries/gnb.pdf?ua=1 (accessed 23 June 2017).
- 11 Central Intelligence Agency, *op. cit.*
- 12 Sylvana Nzirorera (2007) 'In Guinea-Bissau, a victim of female genital mutilation/cutting calls for its end', *UNICEF*, 13 November. Available at https://www.unicef.org/protection/guineabissau_41785.html (accessed 27 June 2017).
- 13 - MICS, p.236.
- UNICEF, *op. cit.*, p.2.
- 14 - MICS, pp.236 & 238.
- MICS 2006, pp.89-90.

UNICEF Statistical Profile on Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting:

UNICEF (2013) *Guinea-Bissau: Statistical Profile on Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting*. Available at https://data.unicef.org/wp-content/uploads/country_profiles/Guinea-Bissau/FGMC_GNB.pdf (accessed 23 June 2017).

Images on website:

- 1 gaborbasch (2014) *GABU, GUINEA-BISSAU – MAY 10, 2014: Portrait of two happy African girls wearing traditional clothes and scarves*. Shutterstock ID 342486686.
- 2 gaborbasch (2014) *GABU, GUINEA-BISSAU – APRIL 8, 2014: portrait on an African Kid of Fula ethnicity smiling to camera, review of daily life of local people in rural Guinea-Bissau*. Shutterstock ID 343948697.
- 3 gaborbasch (2014) *GABU, GUINEA-BISSAU – MAY 9, 2014: Portrait of 2 African women in traditional clothing heading to a women gathering*. Shutterstock ID 325617008.