

# Mali

91.4%<sup>1</sup>



## Key Findings

The prevalence of FGM in women aged 15–49 is 91.4% (excluding northern regions – see below). 71.9% of women aged 15–49 and 79.1% of men aged 15–59 believe that FGM should continue.<sup>2</sup>

### **Geography:**

The regions with the highest prevalence are in the south-south-west of the country<sup>3</sup>

### **Age:**

FGM is most likely to take place before the age of 5<sup>4</sup>

### **Type:**

'Cut, flesh removed' is the most common type of FGM practised<sup>5</sup>

### **Agent:**

88.1% of women aged 15–49 were cut by traditional cutters<sup>6</sup>

## Development Indicators

**HDI Rank:** 182 out of 189 countries (2018)<sup>7</sup>

**SDG Gender Index Rating:** 123 out of 129 countries (2019)<sup>8</sup>

**Population:** 18,601,096 (as at 31 May 2017), with a 2.96% growth rate (2016 est.)<sup>9</sup>

**Infant Mortality Rate:** 75 deaths per 1,000 live births (2015)<sup>10</sup>

**Maternal Mortality Ratio:** 587 deaths per 100,000 live births (2015)<sup>11</sup>

**Literacy:** 38.7% of the total population aged 15 and over can read/write<sup>12</sup>

*'As an African woman I went through Female Genital Mutilation. I know what it is and I know how harmful it is. And I want to protect those younger girls and those generations coming, because FGM has to end.'*

*~ Malian singer and activist Inna Modja<sup>13</sup>*

## Prevalence

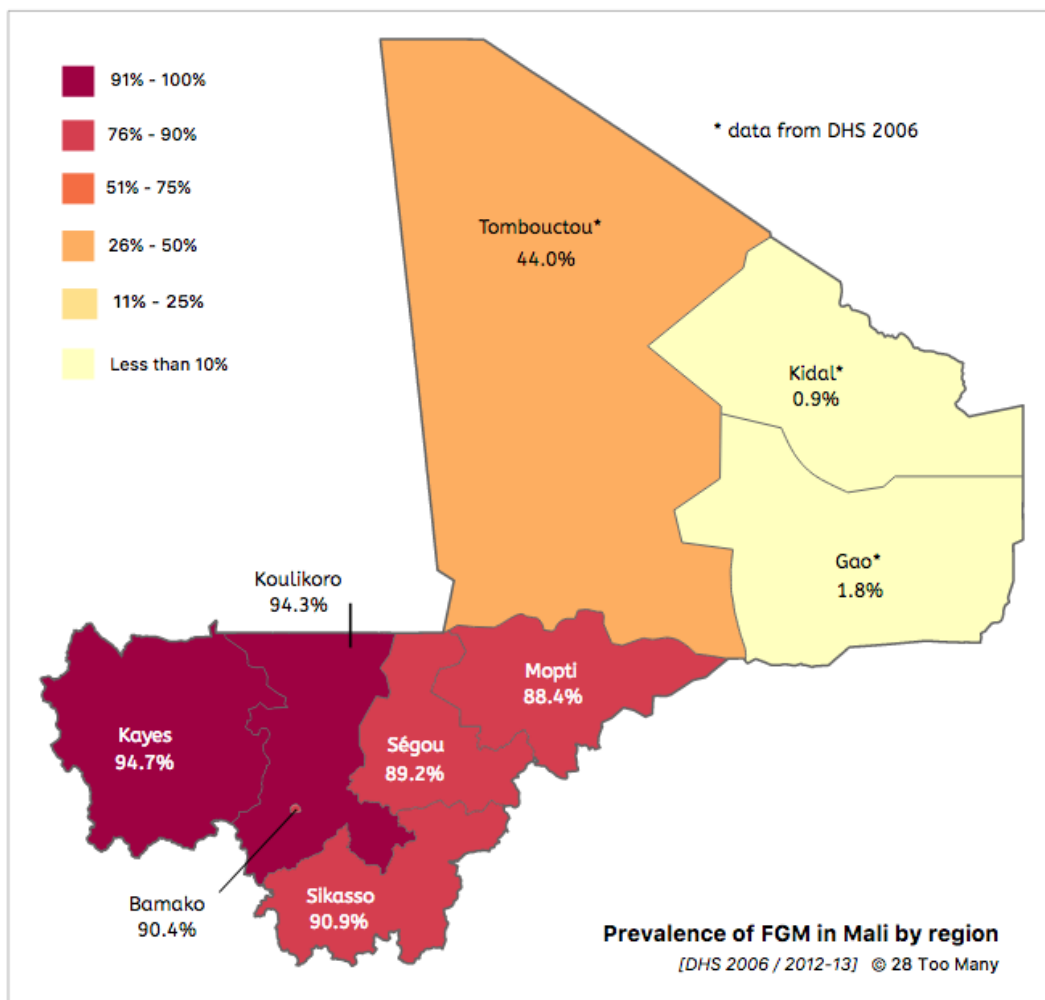
The regions with the highest prevalence of FGM are in the south-south-west: Kayes (94.7% of women aged 15–49), Koulikoro (94.3%) and Sikasso (90.9%).

It should be noted that the figure of 91.4% for overall prevalence of FGM in Mali does not include three regions in the north (Timbouctou, Kidal and Gao), which could not be surveyed by the DHS in 2012–2013 due to armed conflict

in the area. Previous surveys have found those three regions to be lower prevalence than the rest of the country, which suggests that if they had been included in the most recent DHS report, the overall prevalence for the country would have been lower than 91.4%. When adjusted to exclude those three regions, the overall prevalence for women aged 15–49 reported in the previous DHS (in 2006) is 92%, showing almost no change. There is little difference in prevalence between urban areas, rural areas and the capital city of Bamako.

The ethnic group with highest prevalence of FGM is the Sarakolé/Soninké/Marka, at 96% of women aged 15–49, and the ethnic group with the lowest prevalence is Tamachek/Bélla, at 62.7%. Although only a small number of women from the Tamachek/Bélla were surveyed, it is worth noting that in countries such as Burkina Faso there is a low prevalence of FGM among the Bélla.

FGM is practised across all the major religions: 92.8% of Muslim women aged 15–49 have been cut, as have 77.2% of Animiste women and 65.2% of Christian women. Of women who do not adhere to any major faith, 91.4% have undergone FGM.<sup>14</sup>



70.7% of women aged 15–49 and 66.2% of men aged 15–59 believe that FGM is required by their religion. 71.9% of women aged 15–49 and 79.1% of men aged 15–59 believe that FGM should continue.<sup>15</sup>

## Malian Law

The Malian Government has not yet passed legislation to prohibit the practice of FGM.

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- 1 (**'DHS'**): Cellule de Planification et de Statistique (CPS/SSDSPF), Institut National de la Statistique (INSTAT/MPATP), INFO-STAT et ICF International (2014) *Enquête Démographique et de Santé au Mali 2012-2013*, p.296. Rockville, Maryland, USA : CPS, INSTAT, INFO-STAT et ICF International. Available at <http://www.dhsprogram.com/pubs/pdf/FR286/FR286.pdf> (accessed 31 May 2017).
  - 2 DHS, pp.294, 296 & 304.
  - 3 DHS, pp.295-296.
  - 4 DHS, p.297.
  - 5 DHS, p.295.
  - 6 DHS, p.301.
  - 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 (2019) *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](http://www.data.em2030.org/2019-global-report) (accessed 12 June 2019).
  - 9 - Country Meters (2017) *Mali*, 31 May 2017. Available at <http://countrymeters.info/en/Mal> (accessed 31 May 2017).  
- Central Intelligence Agency (2016) *World Factbook: Mali*, 4 May. Available at <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/ml.html> (accessed 31 May 2017).
  - 10 Countdown to 2030 (2015) *A Decade of Tracking Progress for Maternal, Newborn and Child Survival The 2015 Report: Mali*. Available at [http://countdown2030.org/documents/2015Report/Mali\\_2015.pdf](http://countdown2030.org/documents/2015Report/Mali_2015.pdf) (accessed 31 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: Mali*. Available at [http://www.who.int/gho/maternal\\_health/countries/mli.pdf?ua=1](http://www.who.int/gho/maternal_health/countries/mli.pdf?ua=1) (accessed 31 May 2017).
  - 12 Central Intelligence Agency, *op. cit.*
  - 13 Africa News (2016) *Mali: Inna Modja using music to stop Female Genital Mutilation*, 10 February. Available at <http://www.africanews.com/2016/02/10/mali-inna-modja-using-music-to-stop-female-genital-mutilation/> (accessed 21 August 2017).
  - 14 DHS, pp.294-296.
  - 15 DHS, pp.303 & 304.

**UNICEF Statistical Profile on Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting:**

UNICEF (2013) *Mali: Statistical Profile on Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting*. Available at [https://data.unicef.org/wp-content/uploads/country\\_profiles/Mali/FGMC\\_MLI.pdf](https://data.unicef.org/wp-content/uploads/country_profiles/Mali/FGMC_MLI.pdf) (accessed 31 May 2017).

**Images on website:**

- 1 Marianoblanco (2011) *Mopti, Mali – Aug.27,2011: Girl in a village, Mali*. Shutterstock ID 348332174.
- 2 Quick Shot (2011) *MOPTI, MALI, AFRICA – AUGUST, 26, 2011 Women Mopti will wash their clothes in the river Niger*. Shutterstock ID 226221160.
- 3 Marianoblanco (2011) *Djene, Mali – Aug.29,2011: Children, Mali*. Shutterstock ID 375128974.