

# Niger

2.0%<sup>1</sup>



## Key Findings

The prevalence of FGM in women aged 15–49 is 2%.

82.4% of women and 85.7% of men (aged 15–49) believe FGM should be stopped.

*Please note that, due to the low prevalence of FGM in Niger, very few surveyed women have been cut. For this reason, detailed breakdowns by region, age, education, etc. should be treated with caution.*<sup>2</sup>

### **Geography:**

Tillabéri, in the south-west, has the highest prevalence<sup>3</sup>

### **Age:**

75.7% of women aged 15–49 who have undergone FGM were cut before the age of 5<sup>4</sup>

### **Type:**

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

### **Agent:**

84.4% of FGM is carried out by traditional cutters<sup>6</sup>

## Development Indicators

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

**SDG Gender Index Rating:** 125 out of 129 countries (2019)<sup>8</sup>

**Population:** 21,430,597 (as at 8 June 2017), with a 3.22% growth rate (2016 est.)<sup>9</sup>

**Infant Mortality Rate:** 57 deaths per 1,000 live births (2015)<sup>10</sup>

**Maternal Mortality Ratio:** 553 deaths per 100,000 live births (2015)<sup>11</sup>

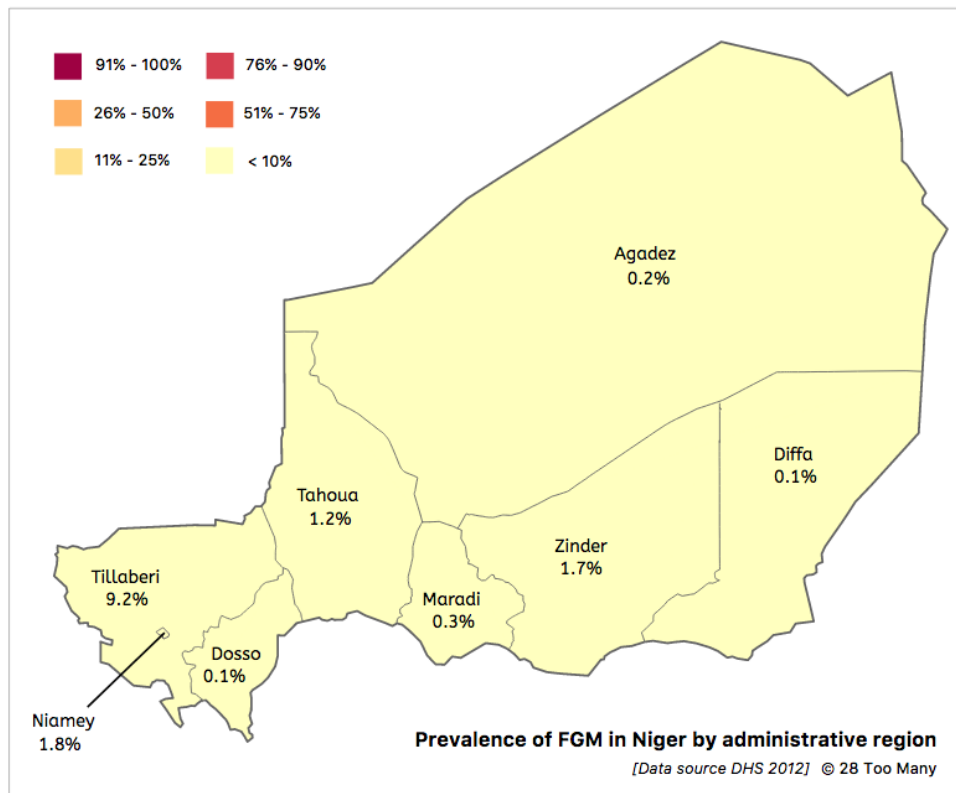
**Literacy:** 91.1% of the total population aged 15 and over can read/write<sup>12</sup>

*According to UNICEF representative Akhil Iyer, Niger could become the first country in West Africa to eradicate FGM.*<sup>13</sup>

## Prevalence

The region in Niger with the highest prevalence is Tillabéri (9.2% of women aged 15–49). Tillabéri is situated in the south-west of the country. All other regions have a prevalence lower than 2%. Women aged 15–49 who live in rural areas are more likely to undergo FGM (2.1%) than those who live in urban areas (1.2%). Prevalence in the capital city of Niamey is 1.8%.

85.1% of women and 85.7% of men aged 15–49 do not believe that FGM is a requirement of their religion.<sup>14</sup>



Between 2006 and 2012, survey data suggests that the overall prevalence for women aged 15–49 fell from 2.2% to 2%, however this drop is not statistically significant. One should therefore assume that the prevalence remained constant at around 2%. In 2006, 88.9% of women and 86.2% of men aged 15–49 who have heard of FGM stated that they believed FGM should be stopped; in 2012, those figures were 82.4% and 90.6% respectively.<sup>15</sup>

## Nigerien Law

The Nigerien Government passed legislation in June 2003 that specifically prohibits FGM (Penal Code – Law No. 2003-025 dated June 13, 2003 modifying the law No. 61-27 of July 15, 1961).

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- 1 (**'DHS'**): Institut National de la Statistique (INS) et ICF International (2013) *Enquête Démographique et de Santé et à Indicateurs Multiples du Niger 2012*, p.285. Calverton, Maryland, USA : INS et ICF International. Available at <http://dhsprogram.com/pubs/pdf/FR277/FR277.pdf> (accessed 8 June 2017).
  - 2 DHS, pp.285 & 289.
  - 3 DHS, p.285.
  - 4 DHS, p.287.
  - 5 DHS, p.285.
  - 6 DHS, p.287.
  - 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) *Niger*, 8 June. Available at <http://countrymeters.info/en/Niger> (accessed 8 June 2017).  
- Central Intelligence Agency (2016) *World Factbook: Niger*, 30 May. Available at <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/ng.html> (accessed 8 June 2017).
  - 10 Countdown to 2030 (2015) *A Decade of Tracking Progress for Maternal, Newborn and Child Survival The 2015 Report: Niger*. Available at [http://countdown2030.org/documents/2015Report/Niger\\_2015.pdf](http://countdown2030.org/documents/2015Report/Niger_2015.pdf) (accessed 8 June 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: Niger*. Available at [http://www.who.int/gho/maternal\\_health/countries/ner.pdf?ua=1](http://www.who.int/gho/maternal_health/countries/ner.pdf?ua=1) (accessed 8 June 2017).
  - 12 Central Intelligence Agency, *op. cit.*
  - 13 NIAMEY (2008) 'Fall in rate of female genital mutilation/cutting', *IRIN*, 15 February. Available at <http://www.irinnews.org/report/76784/niger-fall-rate-female-genital-mutilationcutting> (accessed 22 August 2017).
  - 14 DHS, pp.285 & 288.
  - 15 - DHS, pp.285 & 289.  
- Institut National de la Statistique (INS) et Macro International Inc. (2007) *Enquête Démographique et de Santé et à Indicateurs Multiples du Niger 2006*, pp. 280 & 292. Calverton, Maryland, USA : INS et Macro International Inc. Available at <http://dhsprogram.com/pubs/pdf/FR193/FR193-NI06.pdf> (accessed 8 June 2017).

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

UNICEF (2014) *Niger: Statistical Profile on Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting*. Available at [https://data.unicef.org/wp-content/uploads/country\\_profiles/Niger/FGMC\\_NER.pdf](https://data.unicef.org/wp-content/uploads/country_profiles/Niger/FGMC_NER.pdf) (accessed 8 June 2017).

#### **Images on website:**

- 1 Danita Delmont (2009) *CIRCA 2009 Niger, Niamey, Portrait of an African Muslim schoolgirl with a blue scarf covering her hair, and holding her hand before her mouth*. Shutterstock ID 177455855.
- 2 Eric Pasqualli (2013) *October 2013 – Maradi, Niger / Africa: Muslim school girls getting protection from the extreme heat in Niger under a shadow of a tree, outside of their school*. Shutterstock ID 572059012.
- 3 ILRI (2009) *Adolescent girl in village near Fakara in Niger*. Available at <https://flic.kr/p/746vU2>. CCL: <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/2.0/>.