



## Meeting Report

# Annual Technical Consultation

June 2023 | Amman, Jordan

UNFPA-UNICEF Joint Programme on the Elimination of Female Genital Mutilation: Delivering the Global Promise



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# Acronyms

<b>AoR</b>	Area of Responsibility
<b>ASRO</b>	Arab States Regional Office
<b>CAR</b>	Central African Republic
<b>CCA</b>	Common Country Assessment
<b>CO</b>	Country office
<b>DHS</b>	Demographic and Health Survey
<b>ESAR</b>	Eastern and Southern Africa Region
<b>FGM</b>	Female genital mutilation
<b>GBV</b>	Gender-based violence
<b>HDPN</b>	Humanitarian Development Peace Nexus
<b>HQ</b>	Headquarters
<b>MENA</b>	Middle East and North Africa
<b>M&amp;E</b>	Monitoring and evaluation
<b>MICS</b>	Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey
<b>RO</b>	Regional office
<b>PD</b>	Public declaration
<b>SRH</b>	Sexual and reproductive health
<b>STAR</b>	Strategic Technical Assistance for Research
<b>SOP</b>	Standard Operating Procedures
<b>UNFPA</b>	United Nations Population Fund
<b>UNICEF</b>	United Nations Children's Fund
<b>WASH</b>	Water, sanitation and hygiene
<b>WCAR</b>	West and Central Africa Region

# Executive Summary

The 2023 Annual Technical Consultation, hosted by the UNFPA-UNICEF Joint Programme on the Elimination of Female Genital Mutilation, took place in Jordan from 13 to 15 June. The gathering brought together around 100 participants<sup>1</sup> from UNFPA and UNICEF headquarters, regional and country teams, creating a powerful platform for exchanging lessons, celebrating achievements and discussing challenges. The shared experiences and knowledge gained during this consultation will shape our future programming to effectively eliminate female genital mutilation (FGM). Thematic discussions centred on critical areas such as data utilization, programming in humanitarian settings, youth empowerment, social and behaviour change, gender transformation, girls' agency, systems strengthening, media engagement, social and digital innovation initiatives, and accountability.

The consultation provided valuable lessons in addressing the challenges posed by the current polycrisis. The programming landscape for FGM elimination has been significantly affected by conflict, climate change, displacement, population growth and public health emergencies such as the COVID-19 pandemic. As a result, the Joint Programme must scale up evidence-based multisectoral interventions, focusing on prevention and response to FGM while strengthening preparedness and adapting to evolving humanitarian situations. Collaboration among sectors, including child protection, education, health (including sexual and reproductive health), social protection and economic development, is crucial for developing shared visions, strategies and action plans. The consultation also emphasized the significance of data use and evidence-based programming. It was underscored that both qualitative and quantitative data are essential for fully understanding the issue of FGM. Successful approaches to public declarations of FGM abandonment were identified as those that include stakeholder engagement

and robust post-declaration surveillance systems. The consultation also recognized that the integration of multisectoral efforts and the use of media interventions are critical components of effective programming.

The lessons learned from the consultation have far-reaching implications for advocating for the rights and protection of girls, as well as achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development target 5.3. These implications extend beyond the scope of the Programme itself, underscoring the need for coordinated efforts to raise awareness, advocate for policy changes, and mobilize resources. By prioritizing evidence-based interventions and fostering collaboration among sectors, the Joint Programme can drive meaningful progress in protecting girls from the harmful practice of FGM, ensuring their rights and well-being are upheld. This highlights the critical role of data, evidence-based programming, partnerships, advocacy and more, in creating a world where FGM is eliminated, gender equality is realized, and girls can fully flourish and reach their full potential.

Looking ahead, the Joint Programme will prioritize the implementation of suggestions and solutions that arose from the consultation. This will involve strengthening the evidence base through multisectoral data collection and capacity-building in data utilization. Collaboration with initiatives like the STAR initiative and the adoption of suitable approaches for research quality improvement will be instrumental in this. Key steps towards progress include the disaggregated reporting of indicators, documentation of successful strategies for FGM abandonment, and the institutionalization of monitoring and evaluation mechanisms within the Joint Programme. Collaboration with government stakeholders, the development of national strategies, and the empowerment of girls through education and economic opportunities are also crucial

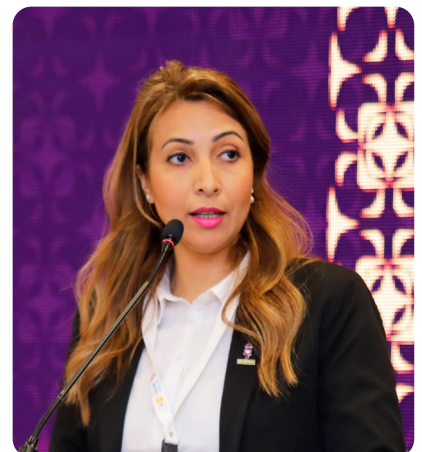
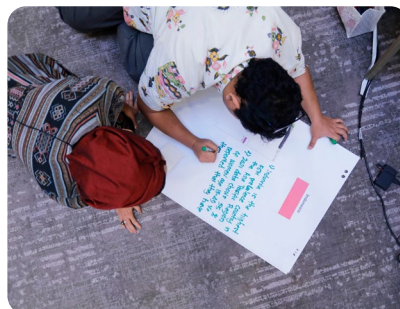
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1. The Joint Programme Coordination Team from Headquarters; Joint Programme focal points from UNFPA and UNICEF country and regional offices; Focal points from UNFPA and UNICEF Liaison Offices to the African Union and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) in Addis Ababa; participants from countries beyond the Joint Programme (Indonesia, Liberia, Niger, Sierra Leone and Tanzania); Experts in various programmatic fields (in person or virtually); A regional activist (Egypt)

for sustained progress. Advocacy efforts, accountability measures and innovative financing mechanisms will play critical roles in creating lasting positive change and ensuring the elimination of FGM.

In conclusion, the 2023 Annual Technical Consultation marked a pivotal moment for knowledge exchange and strategic planning within the Joint Programme. The insights gained will guide our future progress and enable

us to work collectively towards a world where FGM is eliminated, gender equality is realized, and the rights and well-being of women and girls are safeguarded. Strong advocacy efforts and innovative financing mechanisms will be vital for sustaining progress and creating lasting positive change. By implementing these solutions, the Joint Programme can make significant progress towards the elimination of FGM and the protection of human rights for girls.



# 1. Background

The [Joint Programme](#) is implemented in 17 countries (figure 1) that collectively bear 62 per cent of the global burden of FGM.<sup>2</sup> Within these countries, 27 million girls alive today are at risk<sup>2</sup> of being subjected to FGM, and an additional 31 million girls who are projected to be born between now and 2030 are also at risk.<sup>2</sup> Despite significant efforts and notable progress over the years, there is still a lot of work to be done to achieve the goal of eliminating FGM by 2030.

The Annual Technical Consultation took place at a strategic moment as the Joint Programme continues its second year of Phase IV. Programme colleagues from UNFPA and UNICEF, working across headquarters (HQ), regional offices (RO), and country offices (CO), gathered to exchange lessons learned, achievements and challenges, and develop strategic ideas to inform programming to eliminate FGM. The discussions were comprehensive, incorporating reflections, evidence and in-depth analysis of specific intervention areas. These included addressing the humanitarian-development nexus, gender transformation, social and behaviour change, public declaration, systems strengthening, movement building and more to better inform the next seven years of programming to eliminate the harmful practice.

The specific objectives of the Annual Technical Consultation were to:

- Share experiences, progress, and new/emerging challenges in the implementation of the Joint Programme, as well as strategies for adaptation in the face of challenges.
- Strengthen the capacities of the Joint Programme staff on conceptual, pragmatic and evidence-based approaches in selected thematic areas.

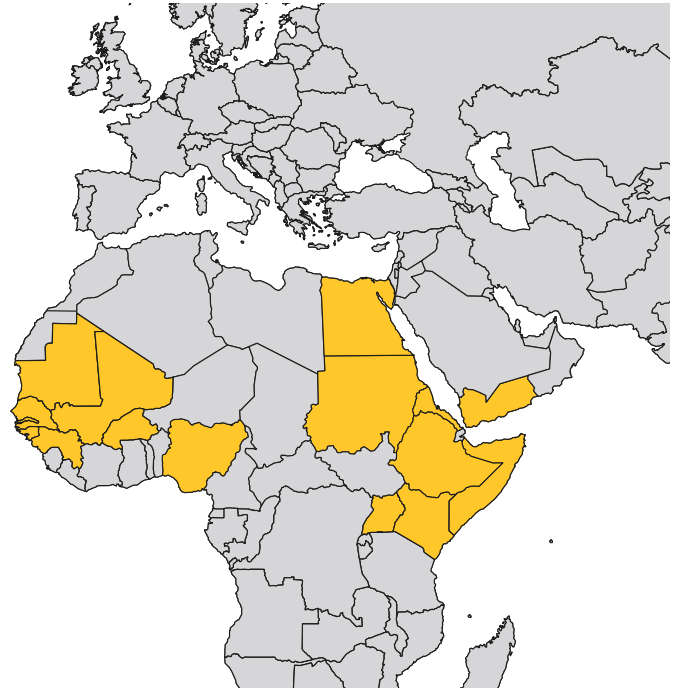


Figure 1: Map of countries where the Joint Programme implements<sup>3</sup>

- Strengthen the joint and collaborative work of UNFPA and UNICEF and provide an open space for potential partnerships across COs and ROs from both agencies.

During the three-day consultation, discussions revolved around three main themes: evidence, innovations for change, and youth engagement. On day one, Amal Abdalla, a youth activist from Egypt, commenced the consultation by delivering a welcoming address and emphasizing the significance of the Joint Programme for girls in Egypt and worldwide. Following her inspiring welcoming remarks, remarks were given by Laila Baker, the Regional Adviser of UNFPA ASRO, Adele Khodr, the Regional Adviser of UNICEF MENA, Princess Basma Bint Talal representing the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, and Isis Elgibali from the non-governmental organization Wadi. They gave an

2. UNICEF global databases, 2023, based on Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys (MICS), Demographic and Health Surveys (DHS) and other national sources, 2004–2021

3. Country borders do not reflect the official position of the United Nations.

overview of key issues related to FGM in the region. Finally, Nafissatou Diop, Chief of Gender and Human Rights at UNFPA, and Nankali Maksud, Senior Adviser of Child Protection at UNICEF, warmly welcomed all participants.

On the programme side, day one focused on the importance of evidence for programming FGM interventions, while day two explored innovative solutions, integration of FGM into other sectors, resilience-building, and the role of media and movement building. Day three emphasized the empowerment of girls and youth, as well as government accountability in eliminating FGM. This report reflects these themes, highlighting key takeaways from presentations, panel discussions and group work, and giving suggestions for the way forward.

### Click for more conversation on twitter



**UNFPA-UNICEF JP to End Female Genital Mutilation**  
@GPtoEndFGM

“To **#EndFGM** we must embrace the fact that everyone has the right to make a choice about their lives and bodies. A simple right like going to school or not being cut has the power to change an adolescent girl’s life,” @LailaBaker64, @UNFPA\_ Arabic Regional Director



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@GPtoEndFGM

“We have witnessed extraordinary grassroots movements led by women, activists and survivors driving change in their communities. Today, we stand alongside them, amplifying their voices, & committing to support their efforts to **#EndFGM**,” @AdeleKhodr, @UNICEFmena Regional Director



**UNFPA-UNICEF JP to End Female Genital Mutilation**  
@GPtoEndFGM

“To **#EndFGM** by 2030, we cannot continue working the same way. We must be innovative in our thinking, program design, collaboration and partnerships and in the way we implement our programs,” @NafissatouDiop, @UNFPA Chief of Gender and Human Rights



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“Our collective efforts is key to a brighter future for generations to come. Together, we can create a world where rights of women and girls are protected, their voices are heard, and where they are empowered to fulfill their highest potential,” @NankaliM, @UNICEF Senior Advisor



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“We need to speed up radically if we want to reach our goal to **#EndFGM** by 2030. We must continue to promote women’s and girls’ agency and leadership to end this horrible practice,” @PrincessBasmah, Princess of Jordan



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@GPtoEndFGM

“With support from @Wadi\_eV and after 15 years of intensive **#EndFGM** campaigning, Halabja and Garmyan in Kurdistan, which started at 77% and 81% FGM rates respectively were declared FGM free in 2021,” Isis Elgibali, FGM Project Coordinator at WADI

## 2. Foundations for Action

### Insights, evidence and collective engagement

The use of evidence in the form of data, research, and monitoring and evaluation (M&E) to inform FGM programming was a cross-cutting theme throughout the consultation. The presentations and panel discussions were centred on the Joint Programme's achievement in evidence generation, data collection and overall dissemination and uptake, as well as the existing challenges and limitations associated with available evidence.

#### Evidence to Action: Using data to inform FGM programming

Speakers from [UNFPA](#) and [UNICEF](#) HQ shared the latest data and trends on FGM, providing insights on both the scope of the information captured and aspects that remain unknown. The discussion addressed the question of how data can effectively reflect localized concerns while also serving as a foundation to inform and enhance programming and advocacy efforts at local, national and global levels.

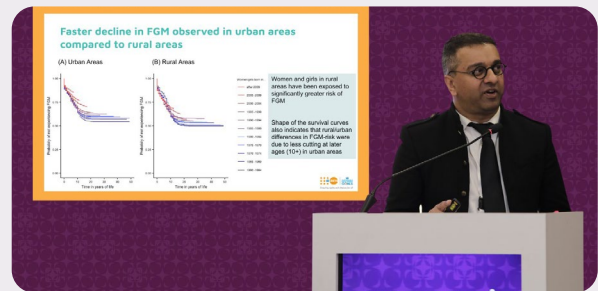
#### Key takeaways:

- It is possible to measure incidents of FGM across a population by examining a combination of age-specific prevalence and information on the occurrence of the practice. Although there may be reporting lags in measuring the prevalence of FGM among girls and women, it is still possible to identify declines across populations.
- Attitudes towards FGM are shifting, and there are indications of increasing opposition among both men and women. However, changing personal attitudes alone may not immediately translate into changes in behaviour due to the strong influence of social norms. Despite parental opposition, many girls still undergo FGM. Indicators measuring behavioural drivers are used to assess progress towards cultural shifts and eventual changes in behaviour.
- The measurement of FGM risk has evolved over the past seven years, with a strong focus on assessing



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“Recent progress in reducing FGM risk has been disproportionately concentrated in urban areas - entailing a notable equity issue and highlighting the need for accelerated efforts to **#EndFGM** particularly in rural areas,” [@Romesh\\_Silva](#), Technical Specialist



the incidence risk of FGM in both the present and future. Data from Demographic and Health Surveys (DHS) and Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys (MICS) have proven valuable in identifying areas where progress has been made in reducing FGM risks, as well as areas where progress in risk reduction is stagnant. However, additional data sources, such as national administrative data systems or other local data sources should be explored to gain supplementary, more detailed and regionalized information on FGM incidence and risks.

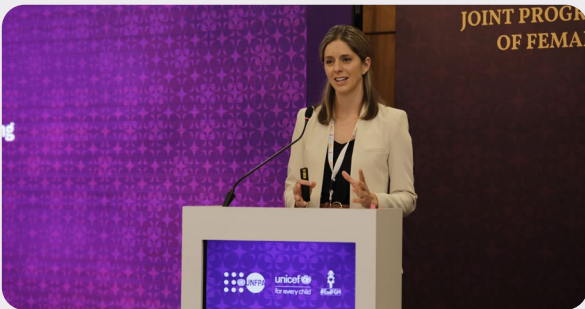
- Major concerns persist as the data on FGM continue to highlight the high risk faced by girls.
  - Humanitarian crises, such as the COVID-19 pandemic, natural calamities, conflicts, the refugee crisis and displacement have led to increased rates of FGM. In search of higher bride prices for daughters, parents expose them to greater risks, and the practice seems to grow when communi-





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“99 million girls will be born in countries where @GPtoEndFGM implements between now and 2030. Out of the 99 million, 31 million of these girls are at risk of being subjected to FGM. We cannot let this continue.” - Colleen Murray, @UNICEFData



ties practising FGM merge with communities that previously did not.

- The period of intervention is shrinking as there is a strong trend for FGM to be performed on girls at younger ages, which means there is a need for more information to understand the critical ages for effective intervention.
- A continuation in the medicalization of FGM has been noted in several countries, particularly Egypt, Sudan and Guinea.

### Way forward:

- High quality data are available and must be used to enhance FGM programming. It is imperative to invest time in interpreting the data, including behavioural data, and making programmatic adjustments accordingly. There is a need for capacity strengthening in the areas of data utilization and analysis to improve programme effectiveness.
- Additional analysis is required to understand subnational disparities in FGM risk reduction. Relying solely on national-level estimates can conceal key disparities such as urban/rural disparities or differences between border and non-border areas in Ethiopia, Kenya and Somalia.
- Public accountability systems, in the form of administrative data systems, should incorporate both direct

and indirect data on FGM incidence risk. This can be achieved by integrating information from sources such as the Health Information System, government social protection systems, and other relevant sources.

- There is a need for capacity strengthening among local researchers and analysts, along with active engagement in research initiatives to generate evidence that informs efforts to eliminate FGM.
- Future assessments should analyse subnational disparities and integrate population dynamics and behavioural changes into risk estimates.

### Evidence to Action: Using research to inform FGM programming

In this segment, [UNICEF Innocenti](#) gave an overview of [evidence-based approaches](#) to address barriers in ending FGM, focusing on the ‘[Strategic Technical Assistance for Research \(STAR\) Initiative](#)’. STAR has been supporting 20 FGM research studies, including 12 multi-country studies. The focus of the studies has been FGM interventions and their impact, patterning and drivers and social and behavioural change. The panel discussion featured participants from UNFPA and UNICEF WCARO and UNFPA ASRO, who shared their reflections on using the STAR initiative to advance the various stages of ongoing research.



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“Evidence guides smart investments, enhances transparency, and holds us accountable. It’s not just about catchy statements - we’re committed to sharing concrete, evidence-based recommendations to strengthen our advocacy and credibility,”  
[@ManahilSiddiqi](#), [@UNICEFInnocenti](#)





### UNFPA-UNICEF JP to End Female Genital Mutilation @GPtoEndFGM

“The STAR initiative provides a multisectoral approach to your research and enough flexibility to involve different stakeholders to reach our outcomes,” Theodora Castan, GBV Specialist  
[@UNFPA\\_ASRO](#)



#### Key takeaways:

- The STAR initiative offers a valuable opportunity to enhance the quality of the evidence base by supporting research on various fronts, including interventions, polycrisis, climate change, social and gender norms, and more. Several countries in the Joint Programme are using the STAR initiative to bolster research efforts to improve the relevance, rigour and reach of the evidence.

#### Way forward:

- Country and regional offices should adopt suitable approaches to enhance the quality of research. This entails strengthening methodologies and implementing robust data-collection techniques. In this regard, country and regional offices are encouraged to seek support from and collaborate with the STAR initiative.

#### Evidence to Action: Using the ACT Framework to measure social norms change

Shifting social and gender norms and promoting social and behaviour change (SBC) is a key strategy for the Joint Programme; however, more work is needed when it comes to effectively measuring the underlying factors driving the practice and tracking change. In this segment, UNICEF HQ gave an overview of the ACT Framework and

other measurement tools that were developed to enable identification and measurement of drivers of behaviour.

UNFPA and UNICEF country teams from Ethiopia, Kenya, Eritrea, Djibouti and Egypt shared their experiences in implementing studies that measure behavioural drivers, including social norms. They discussed their engagements with governments and key stakeholders, the research process, criteria for indicator selection, findings, and future plans for programming, dissemination and additional research needs. Egypt, Kenya and Eritrea implemented the ACT Framework for FGM, while Ethiopia adopted the framework to include child marriage. Djibouti conducted a comprehensive study using a different framework that measures social norms and behavioural drivers related to FGM across psychological, sociological and environmental dimensions.

#### Key takeaways:

- All participants agreed on the importance of identifying and measuring behavioural drivers as they make it possible to both design tailored interventions and measure the programme, which helps identify the drivers to focus on in order to create change where needed.
- Research on behavioural drivers can bring up many behavioural drivers and sometimes it is difficult to



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“Measuring social norms & behavioral drivers allows us to track progress, ensuring our programmes move in the desired direction. By identifying influential drivers, we can tailor interventions effectively, bringing about meaningful change.” - Alessia Radice, [@unicefprotects](#)



identify which are the most pertinent ones; hence, it is important to complement quantitative with qualitative research.

- Government commitment and engagement of stakeholders from the start of the research process is critical for success and needs to support the selection of indicators that are relevant to the country.

### Way forward:

- Enhance measurement of changes in social norms: Countries should explore ways to measure changes in social norms, taking into account the ACT Framework. Sharing experiences and best practices among countries can help improve implementation and effectiveness.
- Generate more qualitative data: It is crucial to gather qualitative alongside quantitative data to get a comprehensive understanding of FGM as this will provide deeper insights into the drivers, underlying factors and social norms associated with the practice.



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“With the changing context of humanitarian settings, it is important to identify the social norms that we should change in those contexts to ensure that our interventions during the response phase of the humanitarian crisis is impactful,” Shadia Elshiwly, @UNFPA\_ASRO



### Evidence to Action: The foundation and application of public declarations



### UNFPA-UNICEF JP to End Female Genital Mutilation @GPtoEndFGM

“Extensive engagement with communities over a period of time coupled with the institutionalization of communities surveillance is key for effective public declaration of FGM abandonment,” Joy Michael, @UNFPATheGambia, @UNFPA\_WCARO @rosensarr

The speakers from UNFPA and UNICEF HQ highlighted the use of public declarations (PDs) to change social expectations and end FGM. The presenter and participants discussed factors linked to both success and challenges in implementing PDs. Key success factors highlighted were community ownership, engagement of multiple stakeholders, leveraging existing social systems, the establishment of robust surveillance mechanisms, and collaboration with other sectors. However, challenges such as high costs, sustaining community commitment, and maintaining effective surveillance cells were also identified.

Recent assessments and contributions from participants during the Consultation have revealed that there are differences in the ways countries carry out public declarations. These include differences in the duration of community engagement prior to the declaration, methods for determining community readiness, and approaches implemented after the declaration. These variations underscore the significance of contextualization and community engagement to ensure that the process aligns with the specific needs of each community.

### Key takeaways:

- Based on the research experience of UNFPA, a process that begins within a core group and involves evaluative deliberations based on values, while being systematically organized, can facilitate the spread of change across communities. This process continues until sufficient numbers of individuals are prepared to embrace change, ultimately leading to coordinated abandonment. It is crucial for a significant number of people to believe that others are also undergoing transformation and witness this change happening in practice.

- Successful efforts in the application of public declarations involve engaging stakeholders, including government from the start of the process, fostering community dialogue and engagement, and setting up community surveillance mechanisms that are owned by the communities. However, we still need to understand more about how we determine a community's readiness for the declaration and how to establish sustainable community surveillance systems post declarations.

### Way forward:

- Clear documentation of countries' approaches to public declarations of FGM abandonment, with a specific focus on determining community readiness and functioning of surveillance mechanisms, is needed to identify successful strategies and areas that require improvement.
- Further research and assessments are needed to determine the effectiveness of post-declaration approaches, particularly in areas such as community surveillance. This will help identify successful practices and inform future strategies.
- There is a need to enhance surveillance mechanisms by ensuring they have clear referral pathways in order to effectively monitor progress.

### Evidence to Action: Monitoring the Joint Programme - experience, challenges, and way forward

Building on over a decade of evidence, the Joint Programme has developed a results framework to monitor activities aimed at eliminating FGM. This segment of the Consultation aimed to enhance participants' understanding of the available tools and resources for monitoring and evaluation (M&E) of Joint Programme activities. UNFPA HQ gave a presentation that fostered discussions on M&E management, encouraging the sharing of experiences, addressing challenges, and identifying future directions. Key questions raised during the plenary focused on the necessity for clearer definitions of existing indicators and the expansion of indicators in cross-cutting sectors such as GBV.

### Key takeaways:

- Countries consistently face challenges in understanding, interpreting and effectively using the results framework of the Joint Programme.
- Major challenges include the lack of robust methodology in studies and research despite the availability of resources. There is also a scarcity of qualitative data to complement quantitative findings and measure



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"There is a need to monitor changes in community outcomes using quantitative and qualitative measurement approaches. We should explore new methods for data and evidence generation and create demand for data and its utilization in FGM programming," @SouhiPaulinTra, M&E Specialist



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"We must invest in strong monitoring and data management systems and use emerging technology-based innovations that are relevant, timely, accessible, and actionable to drive policy and programming and improve girls' lives," Iman ElMahdi, @UNICEF\_Egypt



changes in social norms. Many countries also have difficulties in using the ACT Framework effectively.

- The availability of tools for qualitative data collection and sharing is limited with the current platforms. Participants highlighted that the existing platform does not offer a suitable space for sharing this type of information.
- Data disaggregation continues to be a challenge, as only a few countries have reported disaggregated indicators. Furthermore, the wide variations in localized contexts and ages at which FGM occurs result in metadata that does not accurately reflect the risk or prevalence of FGM.
- Monitor community outcomes comprehensively through a combination of quantitative and qualitative measurement approaches for understanding the impact of interventions.
- Advocate for governments to prioritize the institutionalization, approval and acceptance of robust M&E systems for FGM programmes.
- Improve data dissemination – make data accessible and understandable to policymakers, practitioners and other relevant stakeholders, facilitating evidence-based decision-making.
- Institutionalization of M&E for the Joint Programme, with stronger understanding of and use of Joint Programme indicators and more consistent data collection.

#### Way forward:

- A standardized metadata framework that defines indicators, measurement methods and reporting guidelines on the indicators is under development.
- Efforts should be made to encourage countries to report disaggregated indicators, allowing for a more nuanced understanding of FGM prevalence and impact at subnational levels. This will enable targeted interventions and more effective monitoring.



# 3. Solutions for Change

## *Innovations, collaborations and collective impact*

During day two of the Consultation, various innovations in FGM programming were presented and discussed. These included the integration of FGM into cross-sectoral initiatives, adopting the Humanitarian Development Peace Nexus (HDPN) Approach to address FGM, using media for community mobilization, and supporting movement building. Collaboration emerged as a recurring theme throughout the day and the entire Consultation, emphasizing the importance of working together within the Joint Programme and fostering partnerships with governments and civil society.

### **Navigating the polycrisis: Addressing FGM using the Humanitarian Development Peace Nexus Approach**

The discussion in this segment emphasized the significance of the [HDPN approach](#) in fostering resilience amid polycrises, including conflict, climate change and environmental degradation. Building resilience emerged as a vital strategy to tackle these challenges, and the cross-sectoral nature of the [nexus](#) offers opportunities to integrate considerations of FGM into resilience-building efforts, particularly towards achieving gender equality.

#### **Key takeaways:**

- Effective coordination and collaboration between humanitarian and development partners are essential for the successful implementation of the nexus approach. The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the importance of this collaboration, and lessons learned from the pandemic response can contribute to efforts in addressing FGM.
- FGM is often deprioritized in emergency situations, as limited data and evidence relegate it to a secondary issue overshadowed by other priorities. Economic pressures resulting from climate-related challenges can exacerbate FGM, especially when it is viewed as a precursor to child marriage.
- Advocacy for the integration of FGM across the hu-

manitarian programme cycle is crucial. Entry points can be established through relevant clusters/sectors, such as the protection clusters (GBV AoR, and child protection subcluster), health, education, nutrition, camp coordination and management, and WASH.

#### **Way forward:**

- To ensure effective linkages and synergies, it is important for development actors to actively participate in the humanitarian programme cycle processes, while humanitarian actors should actively participate in the Common Country Analysis and Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework processes.
- Advocate for the integration of FGM prevention measures in key sectors such as health, protection, GBV, WASH, and [education](#).
- Strengthen collaboration and advocacy efforts at global, regional and national levels to integrate FGM prevention effectively into humanitarian programming.



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@GPtoEndFGM

“Working across the humanitarian-development-peace nexus provides opportunities to integrate FGM considerations into building resilience, in relation to more gender equal societies across preparedness and response programming,” Elke Mayrhofer, @UNFPA\_ASRO @UNFPA\_Arabic



- Enhance collaboration, engage local actors, and promote context-based interventions to address FGM effectively.
- Strengthen preparedness for FGM prevention during humanitarian crises, which includes mapping potential partners, capacity-building for these partners, adapting tools and guidelines to the humanitarian context, and ensuring the integration of FGM prevention into response efforts.

### **Systems strengthening: Integrating FGM in sectoral initiatives to drive sustainable change**

This session underscored the significance of integrating FGM prevention and response efforts into multiple sectors, including health, sexual and reproductive health (SRH), education, child protection/GBV, and the judiciary through interactive presentations by UNFPA and UNICEF country teams from Guinea Bissau, Mauritania, Uganda, Egypt, Somalia and Kenya. They emphasized the importance of collaboration and coordination among these sectors to effectively prevent and address FGM. Through thematic working groups, participants explored how each sector can contribute to the elimination of FGM



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“In Eritrea, there is no AOR for GBV and child protection, but there are strong coordinating bodies such as the National Technical Committee and Steering Committee - who are responsible to coordinate and design strategies to address harmful practices.” @Hawapage, @uniceferitrea



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“The path to #EndFGM requires a multi-faceted approach that goes beyond legislative measures. It is critical to engage communities, religious leaders, and influencers to challenge deep-rooted social norms and promote gender equality.”  
@Sarkarindrani1, @UNICEFmena



### **Key takeaways:**

- **Comprehensive SRH services:** Support access to comprehensive sexuality education, address harmful gender norms, provide information on the consequences of FGM, and offer counselling and support to survivors. It is also crucial to develop standard operating procedures (SOPs) and strengthen the supply chain and referral mechanisms to ensure the effective provision of SRH services.
- **Health services:** Utilize the health sector for prevention and response, including pre- and postnatal counselling services and integration of FGM activities into nutrition platforms. Health-care providers should receive training to identify and respond to FGM survivors, while providing medical care and support. Counselling and psychosocial services should also be offered. Collaboration with other sectors is essential for a comprehensive approach to addressing FGM.
- **Child protection/GBV:** Advocate for and support the implementation of laws, policies and programmes to safeguard children’s rights. It is also necessary to strengthen FGM reporting mechanisms and foster collaboration between child protection agencies, law enforcement and community leaders. Additionally, investing in the social work workforce and collaborating with grass-roots organizations, NGOs, and rural outreach workers are essential to ensure timely detection and response to FGM cases.

- **Judiciary and legal framework:** Advocate for the establishment of clear legal frameworks that criminalize FGM, strengthen law enforcement mechanisms, promote access to justice for survivors, enhance witness protection, and ensure the protection of children involved in FGM cases.
- **Education:** Advocate for and support the integration of FGM prevention into school curricula, while also focusing on strengthening the capacity of teachers and sensitization of children.

### Way forward:

- Engage and collaborate with key stakeholders from the CO, RO and HQ levels, as well as national government partners, to advocate effectively for the integration of FGM prevention and response measures within various sectors such as health, SRH, child protection/GBV, and the legal framework, including the judiciary.



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“We must invest in a ‘social work’ workforce for timely detection, referral, and response to FGM cases and also strengthen national protection systems, such as ChildHelp Line 16000, for efficient and timely support, especially during crises.”  
@Venom\_Elsherbin, @UNICEF\_Egypt



### Harnessing media for community mobilization and movement building

The presentations in this segment demonstrated the significant impact of the media as a powerful tool in addressing social norms associated with FGM. The speakers from Population Media Center, Global Media Campaign

and UNICEF Nigeria highlighted the effectiveness of incorporating entertainment-based education, employing a social marketing approach, fostering collaborations with local organizations, and aligning with government policies to launch media campaigns that not only raise awareness and educate but also mobilize action against FGM. They emphasized that successful media interventions rely on key elements such as impactful messaging, strategic use of data, and adopting a holistic approach that involves the whole of society.

### Key takeaways:

- Entertainment-based education, in some contexts, has shown to be more impactful and memorable than traditional educational approaches. Incorporating entertaining elements into educational media can enhance their effectiveness in raising awareness and promoting behavioural change.
- Employing a social marketing approach, especially through collaboration with local groups and organizations, and leveraging social media platforms, amplifies the reach of media campaigns. This approach effectively disseminates information and mobilizes support.
- Movement building is recognized as a critical strategy for eliminating FGM. Empowering survivors to become grass-roots activists and facilitating their interaction with various stakeholders, including religious and traditional leaders, medical personnel, and radio programmes, can lead to powerful results. The personal stories and advocacy efforts of survivors can also effectively communicate the harmful consequences of FGM.
- Adopting a ‘whole society approach’ by creating characters of different age groups in media content helps facilitate audience identification and engagement. This ensures that individuals of all ages can relate to the messages conveyed, promoting a sense of ownership and solidarity within the movement.
- Collaborating with local activist groups and establishing partnerships with government entities enhances the impact of media campaigns. This approach ensures community ownership of the movement, fosters cultural sensitivity, and maximizes the reach and effectiveness of media interventions.
- It was strongly emphasized that while changes in attitude are significant, they do not necessarily translate



into changes in behaviour. This needs to be taken into account when measuring the achievements of media interventions.

### Way forward:

- To effectively address FGM, media campaigns should prioritize households and mothers as primary audiences, while disaggregating age groups with a specific focus on reaching young people. This demographic not only represents a significant population but also serves as a catalyst for change in the fight against FGM.
- The design and implementation of media campaigns should be informed by evidence-based approaches and technical guidance. By leveraging existing evidence of effective strategies and best practices, the impact and success of efforts to eliminate FGM are strengthened.
- It is crucial to have robust strategies to ensure there is a system in place to measure the effects of the media campaign beyond changes in knowledge and attitudes.



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“Sustained engagement with young people, CSOs, traditional leaders is essential to ensure a robust movement for social change is built.” Womba Mayondi, Gender Specialist @UNFPA\_ESARO



### UNFPA-UNICEF JP to End Female Genital Mutilation

@GPToEndFGM

“Accelerate, integrate, experiment - the time is now! Together, we can create a world where rights of women and girls are protected, their voices are heard, and where they are empowered to fulfill their highest potential,” @KarinaNersesian, @UNFPA\_ASRO



### UNFPA-UNICEF JP to End Female Genital Mutilation

@GPToEndFGM

“By tracking the M4G to @EndFGM pledges, we’re measuring our reach & engagement. Increased pledges over time show growing commitment, especially by location. One year on, we’re incorporating routine monitoring & tracking of actions by those who pledged.” - Hadiza Abba, @UNICEFNG



# 4. Empowerment for Impact

## *Lessons, accountability and collective progress*

The Annual Technical Consultation placed a strong focus on engaging and empowering youth, particularly girls. During the third day, panel discussions enabled participants to share their experiences and lessons learned through the implementation of the Girls Assets Framework. Participants actively collaborated in groups, generating ideas to foster meaningful youth participation. The closing session of the consultation emphasized the importance of accountability. Lastly, senior leadership from the Joint Programme provided reflections and highlighted key takeaways.

### **Girls Assets Framework: Lessons from experience**

During this session, a panel discussion involving UNFPA Egypt, UNICEF Uganda and UNFPA Senegal took centre stage, primarily focusing on the lessons learned from implementing various types of girls' asset frameworks. The discussion explored insights regarding effective strategies, challenges encountered, and considerations of cost-efficiency in programme implementation.

### **Key takeaways:**

- Empowering girls plays a crucial role in the eradication of FGM. Girls Assets programming should be developed locally, led by the government and owned by the government. The Joint Programme should be integrated with existing government initiatives, and proper costing and budgeting from government resources are essential for long-term sustainability. Egypt and Senegal shared valuable insights on collaborating with the government, its leadership, and effectively engaging girls in local government initiatives.
- Providing education, health care and opportunities for adolescents is paramount in nurturing their knowledge, self-worth and independence. Empowering girls through education and economic opportunities empowers them to reject harmful practices.
- Engaging girls at the community level can pose challenges, especially when it comes to reaching out-of-school girls and girls with disabilities.

### **Way forward:**

- Collaborate with government stakeholders to develop and implement national strategies for girls and adolescents, ensuring the sustainability and expansion of empowerment programmes.
- Advocate for and secure funding from government resources to ensure long-term sustainability of programmes.
- Ensure that all programming is centred on creating positive impacts for girls. Strengthen engagement with vulnerable groups, including girls with disabilities, to ensure their inclusion and address their specific needs.

### **Empowering youth: Insights and lessons from engaging youth-led initiatives**



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“Building trust and long-term collaboration with young people is the key to the construction of a movement to #EndFGM starting with few who are committed to the cause,” Soufrane Mohamed, @Unfpa\_Djibouti



During this session, country teams from Djibouti, Guinea and Kenya came together to exchange valuable lessons learned from diverse initiatives focused on engaging and empowering youth. The participants collaborated in groups to develop and share ideas on how to build and sustain youth movements dedicated to ending female genital mutilation. They discussed strategies such as awareness campaigns, advocacy efforts, capacity-building, and leveraging technology.

### Key takeaways:

- Youth participation should be prioritized from the planning stage of programmes and co-owned by young people. When feasible, they should also be engaged as implementing partners rather than solely being beneficiaries.
- Youth-led movements to end FGM should align with other movements to leverage collective efforts and facilitate global-scale change.
- Existing youth structures should be strengthened through partnerships and capacity-building, and by linking influential youth groups to government coordination mechanisms.
- Encourage youth groups to develop action plans that are aligned with district and national plans.
- Address barriers that prevent marginalized youth, including those with disabilities, from participating. Provide space and capacity-building opportunities to ensure inclusivity.
- Identify influential youth and other individuals working independently, both digitally and at the community level, who can contribute to ending FGM.
- Increase the use of technology and media platforms to engage youth on a larger scale and raise awareness about FGM.

### Way forward:

- Engage youth-led organizations as implementing partners, with clearly defined deliverables and targets.
- Provide comprehensive support to youth-led organizations, helping them obtain official registration as institutes while offering training in essential skills such

as financial management and resource mobilization.

- Incorporate a range of critical issues into the work of youth-led organizations, including gender equality, SRH, peacebuilding and GBV, and promoting inclusivity for people with disabilities.
- Foster an environment of peer-to-peer exchange and learning, encouraging collaboration and knowledge-sharing among youth groups.
- Advocate for the meaningful inclusion of youth associations in national and local development plans and decision-making bodies, ensuring their voices and perspectives are heard and taken into account.

### Implementing accountability mechanisms: Strengthening efforts for FGM elimination

In this segment, speakers from UNFPA HQ shared insights into the African Union's accountability framework on harmful practices, emphasizing their successful engagement with human rights institutions. UNICEF Uganda showcased their experiences in using U-Report for social accountability, highlighting the transformative impact of this approach on community participation and decision-making processes.

### Key takeaways:

- Strengthening efforts for FGM elimination through implementing accountability mechanisms involves revising national laws, policies and strategies based on recommendations, engaging young people and leveraging new technologies, and creating or strengthening coordination platforms with partners.
- There is still a worrying lack of advocacy efforts at the country level, and it appears that opportunities for advocacy have not been adequately identified. This critical issue calls for urgent attention and action to mobilize support and empower advocates to address pressing challenges effectively.

### Way forward:

- When revising national laws, policies and strategies, it is crucial to incorporate the reporting process and issued recommendations of United Nations Human Rights mechanisms. These recommendations serve as a valuable foundation for discussions and reinforce

advocacy efforts, thereby strengthening the case for legal reforms and the improved protection of human rights.

- Actively involve young people and leverage new technologies, such as the U-Report, to enhance advocacy initiatives. These platforms can effectively engage and empower youth, enabling them to contribute their perspectives and solutions towards human rights issues.
- Enhance the capacity of national human rights commissions to ensure effective accountability in eliminating FGM. Strengthening these commissions will support their role in monitoring and advocating for FGM elimination.
- Establish/strengthen a coordination mechanism involving relevant partners, with UNFPA and UNICEF playing a leading role. This collaborative approach will facilitate effective communication, resource sharing and joint advocacy efforts, ultimately maximizing the impact of interventions to protect human rights.
- Enhance the competency and skills of COs to identify and leverage entry points for advocacy. If CO staff have the necessary aptitude and skills, they can effectively identify strategic opportunities and carry out impactful advocacy actions to address human rights challenges.



## 5. Closing Session

During the closing session, participants from UNFPA and UNICEF ROs shared their key insights and future action points. WCARO recognized the availability of data as an opportunity for advocacy, appreciating the possibility of involving M&E colleagues to gather country-specific data while also acknowledging the need to adapt to the ongoing humanitarian crisis. ESARO emphasized the importance of expanding the evidence base by acquiring more in-country data. ASRO/MENA highlighted the importance of enhancing work on resilience, specifically in relation to the HDPN approach and further integration of child marriage issues.

Furthermore, Nafissatou Diop (Chief of Gender and Human Rights Branch at UNFPA) and Nankali Maksud (Senior Adviser of Child Protection at UNICEF) presented key takeaways during a virtual session with UNFPA and UNICEF Country Representatives and Chiefs of Child Protection. This session shared significant insights, emerging trends, and strategically important issues within the scope of the Joint Programme's work. Some of these insights and actions are listed below.



**Monitoring, evaluation and data:** Institutionalize monitoring and evaluation of FGM programmes, diversify data sources, and advocate for the inclusion of FGM-related questions in national surveys. Strengthen the evidence base through multisectoral data collection, and explore administrative data as an additional source.



**Polycrisis:** Conflicts, climate shocks, emergencies, and the persistent impact of COVID-19 threaten progress in ending FGM, increasing the number of girls at risk and rolling back years of advancement. Position the programme for the future, looking beyond the crises and anticipating what lies ahead.



**Integration and collaboration:** Effective FGM elimination requires collaboration across sectors such as health, education, protection, and GBV, integrating prevention efforts into humanitarian response, and leveraging the power of data and evidence for informed programming.



**Accountability for elimination:** Advocate for accountability through collaboration with governments, civil society organizations, national human rights institutions, and justice organizations, supporting report preparation for international and regional mechanisms (CRC, CEDAW, UPR, AU Organs).



**Amplifying the Agenda:** Use political platforms, intergovernmental processes and upcoming SDG Summits to elevate the importance of SDG 5.3 and prioritize FGM elimination in global agendas. Seek closer collaboration with and engagement of youth and girls.



**Funding and financing innovations:** Mobilize funding through local embassies, explore opportunities within existing programmes, such as the Spotlight Initiative, integrate FGM into various sectors' financing mechanisms, and leverage private sector partnerships.

# 6. Annexes

## Annex 1: Communication Resources

### Presentation



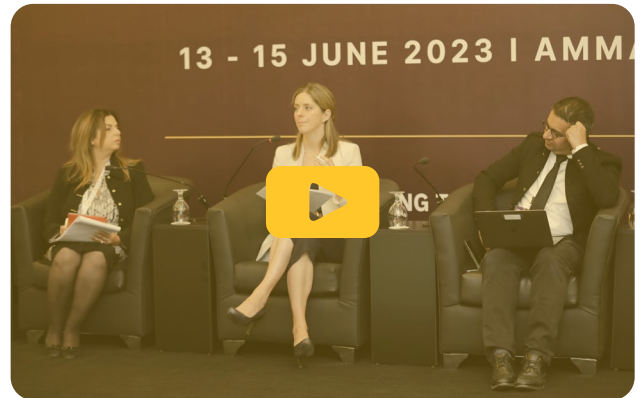
### Social Media Engagement



### Day 1



### Day 2



### Marketplace



### Day 3



## Annex 2: Agenda 2023 Annual Technical Consultation

Date/Time	Session Title	Objectives
<b>13 June</b>	<b>Day 1: Foundations for Action: Insights, Evidence, and Collective Engagement</b>	
09:00 – 10:30	<b>Opening Session:</b> Opening of the 2023 Annual Technical Consultation	<p>This session will mark the beginning of the Annual Consultation, featuring formal welcoming remarks from esteemed high-level representatives. It will also include an insightful overview of the MENA experience in eliminating FGM, featuring remarks from key actors and a powerful voice from a champion of change.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Speakers:</b> Amal Abdalla, Youth Activist, Egypt; Nafissatou Diop, Chief of Gender and Human Rights, UNFPA; Nankali Maksud, Senior Adviser, Prevention of Harmful Practices, Child Protection, UNICEF; Ms. Adele Khodr, Regional Director, UNICEF Middle East and North Africa (virtual); Ms. Laila Baker, Regional Director, UNFPA Arab States Regional Office (virtual); H.H. Princess Basma Bint Talal, the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan (recording); and Wadi Organization (virtual)</li> </ul>
<b>10:30 – 11:00</b>	<b>Health Break</b>	
11:00 – 11:30	<b>Opening Session:</b> Getting to know each other	<p>This session will serve as an introduction, setting the stage for the consultation, while also fostering cohesion among participants and encouraging their active engagement.</p>
11:30 – 12:45	<b>Session 1 – Segment 1:</b> Evidence to Action: Using Research to Inform FGM Programming	<p>This segment aims to share country experiences in utilizing the ‘Strategic Technical Assistance for Research (STAR) Initiative’ approach to generate evidence and inform FGM programming.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Moderator:</b> Nankali Maksud, UNICEF HQ</li> <li><b>Speakers:</b> Manahil Siddiqi, UNICEF Innocenti; Theodora Castan, UNFPA ASRO; Catherine Muller, UNICEF WCARO; and Pedro Guerra, UNFPA WCARO</li> </ul>
<b>12:45 – 01:45</b>	<b>Lunch Break</b>	
01:45 – 02:30	<b>Session 1 – Segment 2:</b> Evidence to Action: Using the ACT Framework to Measure Social Norms	<p>This session aims to share country experiences in applying and utilizing the ACT Framework for measuring social norms and present documented results that showcase its effectiveness in driving positive social change.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Moderator:</b> Alessia Radice, UNICEF HQ</li> <li><b>Speakers:</b> Fikereselam Getinet, UNICEF Ethiopia and Tsehay Gette, UNFPA Ethiopia; Jackson Onyando, UNICEF Kenya; Samuel Issac, UNICEF Eritrea; Armand Atangana and Sandra Dupuy, UNICEF Djibouti; Reem Elsherbini and Iman Hani, UNICEF Egypt</li> </ul>
<b>02:30-03:00</b>	<b>Health Break</b>	
03:00 – 04:30	<b>Session 1 – Segment 3:</b> Evidence to Action: The Foundation and Application of Public Declarations	<p>This segment aims to discuss the public declaration of abandonment of FGM, including its meaning, process, the evidence so far, and relevance to programming.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Moderator:</b> Nafissatou Diop, UNFPA HQ</li> <li><b>Speakers:</b> Stephanie Baric, Consultant HQ and Alessia Radice, UNICEF HQ</li> </ul>
04:30 – 05:40	<b>Session 1 – Segment 4:</b> Monitoring the Joint Programme: Experiences, Challenges, and Way Forward	<p>This session aims to facilitate a discussion on the management of monitoring and evaluation (M&amp;E) for the Joint Programme, focusing on sharing experiences, addressing challenges encountered, and identifying the way forward.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Moderator:</b> Harriet Akullu, UNICEF HQ</li> <li><b>Speaker:</b> Paulin Tra, UNFPA HQ</li> </ul>
<b>14 June</b>	<b>Day 2: Solutions for Change: Innovations, Collaborations, and Collective Impact</b>	
09:00 – 10:15	<b>Session 1 – Segment 5:</b> Evidence to Action: Using Data to Inform FGM Programming	<p>This segment aims to share the latest data and trends on FGM, and to discuss how this information can be used to inform and improve programming and advocacy efforts at local, national, and global levels.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Moderator:</b> Germaine Haddad, UNFPA ASRO</li> <li><b>Speakers:</b> Colleen Murray, UNICEF HQ and Romesh Silva, UNFPA HQ</li> </ul>
10:15 – 10:45	<b>Session 2:</b> Navigating the Polycrisis: Addressing FGM Using the Humanitarian Development Peace Nexus (HDPN) Approach	<p>This session aims to underline the relevance of the Humanitarian Development Peace Nexus (HDPN) approach in building resilience, ensuring preparedness and response, while also facilitating a deeper understanding of the working mechanisms and coordination platforms within the humanitarian sector. It will provide insights into identifying strategic entry points for FGM programming in the humanitarian context, and initiate discussions on monitoring and reporting on Joint Programme initiatives within this setting. It will also explore how best we can advocate for the integration of FGM within the broader humanitarian context, highlighting its importance and potential impact.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Moderator:</b> Shadia Elshiw, UNFPA ASRO</li> <li><b>Speakers:</b> Elke Mayrhofer, UNFPA ASRO; Burkina Faso and Ethiopia country teams</li> </ul>

10:45 – 11:15	<b>Health Break</b>	
11:15 – 12:45	<b>Session 2:</b> <i>Continuation of session 2</i>	
12:45 – 01:45	<b>Lunch Break</b>	
01:45 – 03:30	<b>Session 3:</b> Systems Strengthening: Integrating FGM in Sectoral Initiatives to Drive Sustainable Change	<p>This session aims to explore opportunities for integrating FGM within various sectoral initiatives supported by UNFPA and UNICEF at the country level, including GBV and Child Helpline, Justice, and more. It also aims to facilitate the sharing of country experiences in integrating prevention and response to FGM within the realms of sexual and reproductive health, child protection, education, health services, and systems.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Moderator:</b> Indrani Sarkar, UNICEF MENA</li> <li>• <b>Speakers:</b> Guinea Bissau, Mauritania, Uganda, Egypt, Somalia and Kenya country teams</li> </ul>
03:30 – 04:00	<b>Health Break</b>	
04:00 – 05:00	<b>Session 4:</b> Harnessing Media for Community Mobilization and Movement Building	<p>This session aims to showcase experiences and best practices in utilizing media to enhance and expand the impact of community mobilization and movement building initiatives. It will emphasize the significance of measuring the effectiveness of media interventions and their contribution to achieving desired outcomes.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Moderator:</b> Womba Mayondi, UNFPA ESARO</li> <li>• <b>Speakers:</b> Population Media Center, Global Media Campaign, and Hadiza Abba, UNICEF Nigeria</li> </ul>
05:00 – 06:00	<b>Session 5:</b> Marketplace of Innovative Initiatives to End FGM	<p>This session aims to provide a platform for countries to showcase their diverse social and/or digital innovative initiatives within the framework of the Joint Programme. This session will be organized in a marketplace format where each country and region will have a dedicated table/booth to showcase their work around innovation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Moderator:</b> Pedro Guerra, UNFPA WCARO</li> </ul>
<b>15 June</b>	<b>Day 3 – Empowerment for Impact: Lessons, Accountability, and Collective Progress</b>	
09:00 – 10:00	<b>Session 6:</b> Girls Assets Framework: Lessons from Experience	<p>This session aims to share lessons learned from implementing the Girls Assets Framework, including insights into effective strategies, challenges encountered, and cost-efficiency considerations in programme implementation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Moderator:</b> Mona Aika, UNICEF ESARO</li> <li>• <b>Speakers:</b> May El Sallab, UNFPA Egypt; Irene Ayot, UNICEF Uganda; and Lydie Sanka, UNFPA Senegal</li> </ul>
10:00 – 10:30	<b>Session 7:</b> Empowering Youth: Insights and Lessons from Engaging Youth-led initiatives	<p>This session aims to share country experiences and valuable lessons learned from various initiatives focused on engaging and empowering youth.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Moderator:</b> Caroline Muller, UNFPA Mali</li> <li>• <b>Speakers:</b> Djibouti, Guinea, and Kenya country teams</li> </ul>
10:30 – 11:00	<b>Health Break</b>	
11:00 – 11:30	<b>Session 7:</b> <i>Continuation of session 7</i>	
11:30 – 01:00	<b>Session 8:</b> Implementing Accountability Mechanisms: Strengthening Efforts for FGM Elimination	<p>This session aims to facilitate knowledge exchange and collaboration by sharing insights into the African Union's (AU) accountability framework on harmful practices, highlighting successful engagement with human rights institutions, and showcasing experiences in using U-Report for social accountability.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Moderator:</b> Julie Dubois, UNICEF HQ</li> <li>• <b>Speakers:</b> Meltem Agduk, UNFPA HQ; Emilie Filmer-Wilson, UNFPA HQ; and Irene Ayot, UNICEF Uganda</li> </ul>
01:00 – 02:00	<b>Lunch Break</b>	
02:00 – 02:30	<b>Session 9:</b> Reflect, Learn, and Progress: Key Takeaways from the Annual Technical Consultation	<p>This session aims to reflect on the key discussions and insights that have emerged from the Annual Technical Consultation and map forward how UNFPA and UNICEF can be better positioned to effectively contribute towards achieving the 2030 Agenda of the Sustainable Development.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Speakers:</b> Nafissatou Diop, UNFPA HQ and Nankali Maksud, UNICEF HQ</li> </ul>
02:30 – 03:30	<b>Session 10:</b> Dialogue with Representatives: Fostering Collaboration and Collective Action	<p>This session aims to present a summary of the rich discussions that emerged from the Annual Technical Consultation, highlighting key insights, emerging trends, and issues of strategic importance in the work of the Joint Programme.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Speakers:</b> Nafissatou Diop, UNFPA HQ and Nankali Maksud, UNICEF HQ</li> </ul>

**End of day 3 and end of the Annual Technical Consultation**



The UNFPA-UNICEF Joint Programme on the Elimination of Female Genital Mutilation: Delivering the Global Promise is generously funded by the Governments of Austria, Belgium, Canada, Germany, Iceland, Italy, Luxembourg, Norway, AECID (Spain), Sweden, the United Kingdom, the United States of America and the European Union.

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