

# Djibouti



93.1%<sup>1</sup>

## Key Findings

The prevalence of FGM in women aged 15–49 is 93.1%.  
51% of women aged 15–49 believe that FGM should stop.<sup>2</sup>

### **Geography:**

FGM prevalence in the Djibouti region is 92.9%; in all other regions, it is 94.9%<sup>3</sup>

### **Age:**

FGM is most likely to take place between the ages of 5 and 9<sup>4</sup>

### **Type:**

Type III (sewn closed) is the most common type of FGM practised<sup>5</sup>

### **Agent:**

More than three-quarters of FGM is performed by traditional practitioners; about 20% by medical personnel<sup>6</sup>

## Development Indicators

**HDI Rank:** 166 out of 189 countries (2019)<sup>7</sup>

**Population:** 1,003,096 (as of 13 September 2021), with a 1.33% growth rate (Sept. 2021 est.)<sup>8</sup>

**Infant Mortality Rate:** 50 deaths per 1,000 live births (2019)<sup>9</sup>

**Maternal Mortality Ratio:** 248 deaths per 100,000 live births (2017)<sup>10</sup>

**Literacy:** it is not known what percentage of the population aged 15 and over are literate

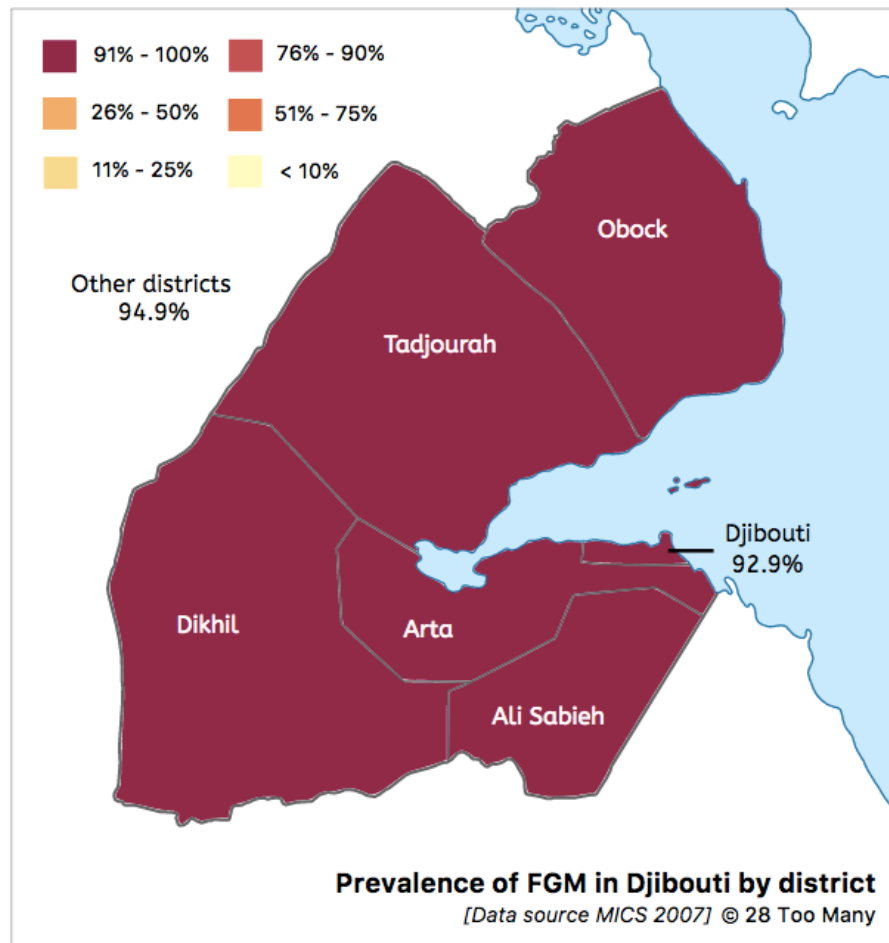
*'Whatever the justifications are, we need to address this problem  
and stop subjecting girls and women to unnecessary suffering.'*

*~ Nimo Boulhan, former Minister of Women's  
Promotion, Family Welfare and Social Affairs<sup>11</sup>*

# Prevalence

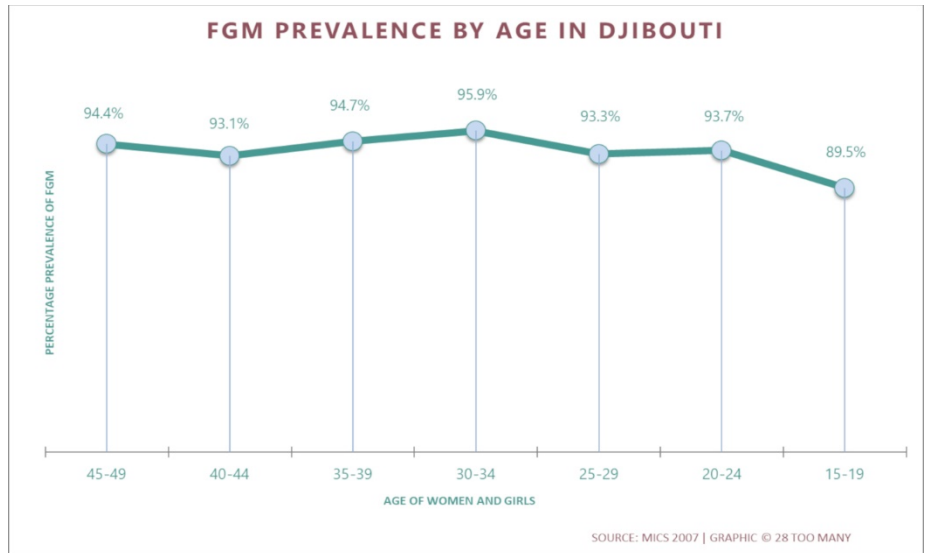
The prevalence of FGM among women aged 15–49 in the capital region of Djibouti is 92.9%. The prevalence in the rest of the country is 94.9%. Women aged 15–49 who live in rural areas are more likely to undergo FGM (95.5%) than those who live in urban areas (93.1%).

The prevalence of women aged 15–49 who have at least one daughter who has undergone FGM is 48.5%.<sup>12</sup>



In 2006, the prevalence of FGM for women aged 15–49 was measured to be 93.1%. In 2002 it was measured to be 98.1%. However, due to the different methods used in each survey, this may not represent a real drop in prevalence.

Breaking down the most recent data by age group shows that the prevalence for women aged 45–49 is 94.4%, while for the youngest age group is 89.5%. This suggests that prevalence is lower among younger women, although more data would be required to confirm this.<sup>13</sup>



## Djibouti Law

The Djibouti Government passed legislation in 1995 that specifically prohibits FGM (Article 333 of the Criminal Code). In 2009, Law No. 55 introduced further amendments, including criminalising the failure to report FGM to the authorities. Evidence suggests, however, that, due to ineffective implementation of the law, there have been no convictions in Djibouti to date.

- 1 (**'MICS'**): Enquête Djiboutienne à Indicateurs Multiple (EDIM), Ministère de la Santé and République de Djibouti (2007) *Enquete Djiboutienne A Indicateurs Multiples: Rapport Final*, p.94. Available at [https://mics-surveys-prod.s3.amazonaws.com/MICS3/Middle%20East%20and%20North%20Africa/Djibouti/2006/Final/Djibouti%202006%20MICS\\_French.pdf](https://mics-surveys-prod.s3.amazonaws.com/MICS3/Middle%20East%20and%20North%20Africa/Djibouti/2006/Final/Djibouti%202006%20MICS_French.pdf) (accessed 12 June 2017).
- 2 MICS, p.94.
- 3 MICS, p.94.
- 4 UNICEF (2013) *Djibouti: Statistical Profile on Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting*, p.2. Available at [https://data.unicef.org/wp-content/uploads/country\\_profiles/Djibouti/FGMC\\_DJI.pdf](https://data.unicef.org/wp-content/uploads/country_profiles/Djibouti/FGMC_DJI.pdf) (accessed 12 June 2017).
- 5 MICS, p.94.
- 6 UNICEF, *op. cit.*, p.2.
- 7 United Nations Development Programme (2020) *Human Development Reports*. Available at <http://hdr.undp.org/en/countries/profiles/DJI> (accessed 13 Sept. 2021).
- 8 Country Meters (2021) Djibouti, 13 September. Available at <http://countrymeters.info/en/Djibouti> (accessed 13 Sept. 2021).
- 9 United Nations Development Programme (2020) *Human Development Reports*. Available at <http://hdr.undp.org/en/countries/profiles/DJI> (accessed 13 Sept. 2021).
- 10 Countdown to 2030, Djibouti Country Profile. Available at: <https://profiles.countdown2030.org/#/ds/DJI> (accessed 13 Sept. 2021)
- 11 UN News Centre (2008) Djibouti to work with UN to eliminate female genital mutilation. Available at <http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=26615> (accessed 13 June 2017).
- 12 MICS, pp.94 and 96.
- 13 - MICS, p.94.
  - Talal Ibn Abdelaziz, Président du Programme du Golfe Arabe d'Appui aux Organisations des Nations Unies de Développement (AGFUND) et Président du Comité Supérieur d'Orientation du Programme de la Santé de la Famille Arabe (2004) *Pan Arab Program For Family Health - Rapport Final*, p.129. Available at <http://www.ministere-finances.dj/statistiques/RAPPORT%20FINAL%20PAPFAM.pdf> (accessed 12 June 2017).

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

UNICEF (2020) *Djibouti: Statistical Profile on Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting*. Available at [https://data.unicef.org/wp-content/uploads/country\\_profiles/Djibouti/FGM\\_Country\\_Profiles\\_March2020/FGM\\_DJI.pdf](https://data.unicef.org/wp-content/uploads/country_profiles/Djibouti/FGM_Country_Profiles_March2020/FGM_DJI.pdf) (accessed 13 June 2021).

**Images on website:**

- 1 International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Society's Photostream (2011) *Increased vulnerability of children*. Available at <https://flic.kr/p/achXUG>. CCL: <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/2.0/>.
- 2 Charles Roffey (2005) *Djibouti market ladies*. Available at <https://flic.kr/p/8TiQZ>. CCL: <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/2.0/>.
- 3 Kertu (2015) *Woman in a traditional dress on the countryside of Djibouti*. *Djibouti - 03/DEC/2015*. Shutterstock ID 433427896.