

Guinea-Bissau



52.1%¹

Key Findings

The prevalence of FGM in women aged 15–49 is 52.1%.
75% 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 (95.8%) and Bafatá (86.9%)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 on more than three-quarters of women⁵

Agent:

Almost all FGM is carried out by traditional practitioners⁶

Development Indicators

HDI Rank: 175 out of 189 countries (2019)⁷

Population: 2,007,090 (as of 28 April 2021), with a 2.52% growth rate (2021 est.)⁸

Infant Mortality Rate: 54 deaths per 1,000 live births (2019)⁹

Maternal Mortality Ratio: 440 deaths per 100,000 live births (2017)¹⁰

Literacy: 45.6% of the total population aged 15 and over can read/write¹¹

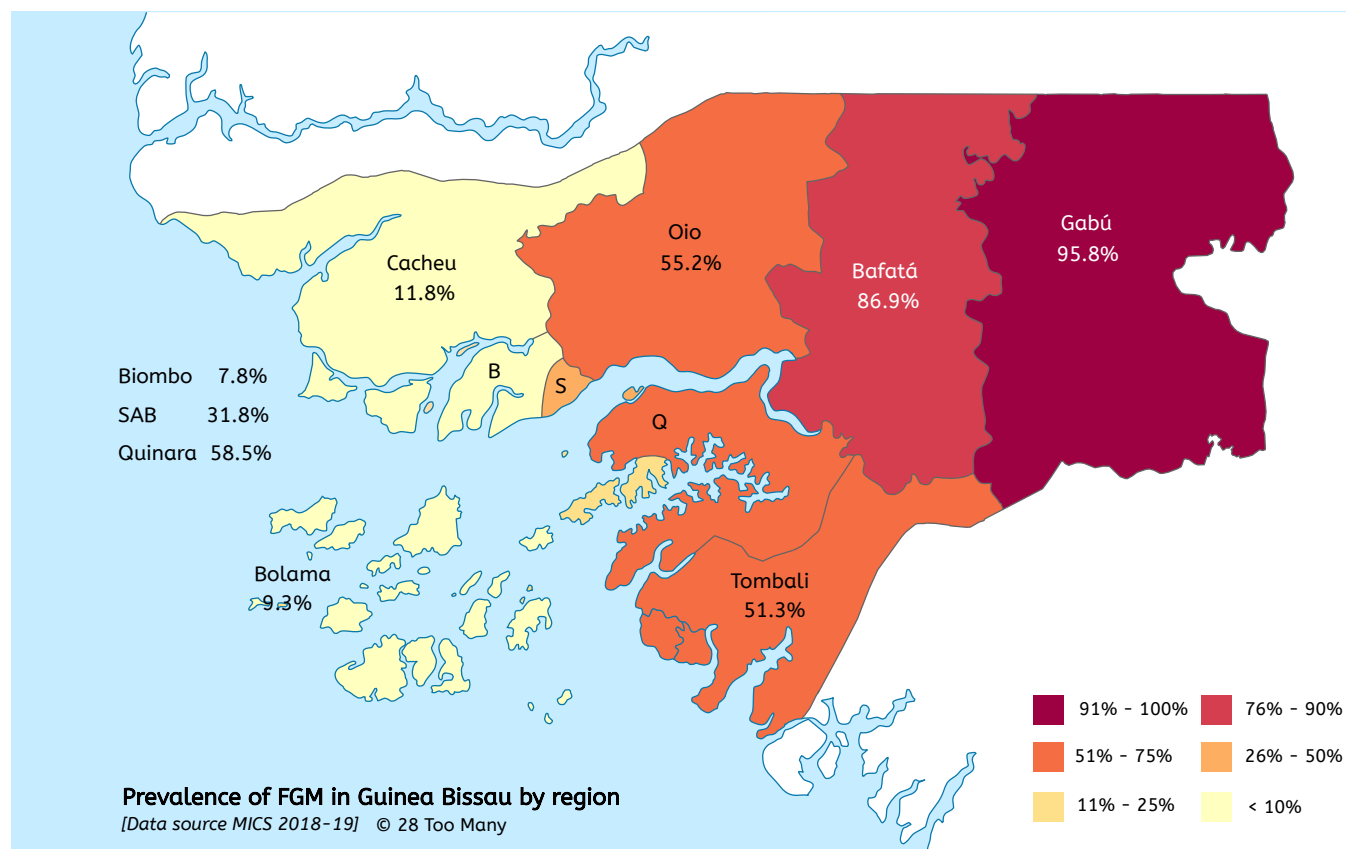
*'I will do whatever it takes to have this traumatizing practice stop.
This razor blade caused more than physical wounds in a woman's life.'*

~ 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 (95.8%) and Bafatá (86.9%). There is a significant difference between these regions and the rest of Guinea-Bissau, as the department with the next-highest prevalence is Quinara at 58.5%. The regions with the lowest prevalence are Biombo at 7.8% and Boloma with 9.3%. Women aged 15-49 who live in rural areas are more likely to undergo FGM (58.2%) than those who live in urban areas (42.7%)¹³.

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%).¹⁴



Between 2006 and 2014, the overall prevalence of FGM among women aged 15–49 stayed roughly constant (44.5% in 2006 and 44.9% in 2014). The prevalence of FGM in Guinea-Bissau appears to have increased from 44.9% in 2014 to 52.1% in 2018-9. This increase is not fully understood. However, due to the large age range of women included in the survey, the prevalence in women aged 18 and over is consistently between 50 and 55%, whereas in women aged 15-17 the figure is lower at 45.4%. Breaking down the data by age cohort in this way avoids the challenges of making comparisons between surveys and, in this case, suggests that some progress has been made towards lower prevalences among younger women.

Between 2006 and 2018-9, the percentage of women who believe that FGM should be abolished has remained roughly constant at around 75%.¹⁵

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.

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- 1 **(‘MICS’)**: Ministério da Economia e Finanças, Direcção Geral do Plano/Instituto Nacional de Estatística (INE) (2018-19) *Inquérito aos Indicadores Múltiplos (MICS6) 2018-19, Relatório Final*, p.507-512. 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/MICS6/West%20and%20Central%20Africa/Guinea-Bissau/2018-2019/Survey%20findings/Guinea%20Bissau%202018-19%20MICS%20Survey%20Findings%20Report_Portuguese.pdf (accessed 28 April 2021).
 - 2 MICS, p. 508
 - 3 MICS, p.210.
 - 4 MICS, *op. cit.*
 - 5 **(‘MICS’)**: Ministério da Economia e Finanças, Direcção Geral do Plano/Instituto Nacional de Estatística (INE) (2006) *Inquérito aos Indicadores Múltiplos (MICS3) 2006, Relatório Final*, p.507-512. 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/MICS3/West%20and%20Central%20Africa/Guinea-Bissau/2006/Final/Guinea-Bissau%202006%20MICS_French.pdf (17 June 2019).
 - 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 (2019) *Human Development Report 2020 The Next Frontier: Human Development and the Anthropocene. Briefing note for countries on the 2020 Human Development Report Guinea-Bissau*. Available at http://hdr.undp.org/sites/all/themes/hdr_theme/country-notes/GNB.pdf (accessed 28 April 2021).
 - 8 - Country Meters (2021) *Guinea-Bissau*. Available at <http://countrymeters.info/en/Guinea-Bissau> (accessed 28 April 2021).
- Central Intelligence Agency (2021) *World Factbook: Guinea-Bissau*, 14 April. Available at <https://www.cia.gov/the-world-factbook/countries/guinea-bissau/> (accessed 28 April 2021).
 - 9 Countdown to 2030: Women’s, Children’s and Adolescents’ Health. Guinea-Bissau Country Profile. Available at <https://profiles.countdown2030.org/-/ds/GNB> (accessed 28 April 2021).
 - 10 Countdown to 2030, *op. cit.*
 - 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. 508
 - 14 - MICS 2006, p.236.
- UNICEF, *op. cit.*, p.2.
 - 15 MICS, p. 512