

# Tanzania



10.0%<sup>1</sup>

## Key Findings

The prevalence of FGM in women aged 15–49 is 10%.  
Of the regions that practise FGM, those that are predominantly  
Christian have the highest prevalence of FGM.<sup>2</sup>

### **Geography:**

The regions with the highest prevalence are in the centre and north of the country

### **Age:**

Women generally undergo FGM as infants or past the age of 13.<sup>3</sup>

### **Type:**

'Cut, flesh removed' is the most common type of FGM practised<sup>4</sup>

### **Agent:**

Almost all FGM is carried out by traditional practitioners<sup>5</sup>

## Development Indicators

**HDI Rank:** 154 out of 189 countries (2018)<sup>6</sup>

**SDG Gender Index Rating:** 101 out of 129 countries (2019)<sup>7</sup>

**Population:** 56,740,029 (as at 7 June 2017), with a 2.77% growth rate (2016 est.)<sup>8</sup>

**Infant Mortality Rate:** 98 deaths per 1,000 live births (2015)<sup>9</sup>

**Maternal Mortality Ratio:** 398 deaths per 100,000 live births (2015)<sup>10</sup>

**Literacy:** 70.6% of the total population aged 15 and over can read/write Kiswahili (Swahili), English or Arabic<sup>11</sup>

*'FGM should be made history in Tanzania. As a government, we can't afford to see such acts continuing to happen. It is not something to be proud of.'*

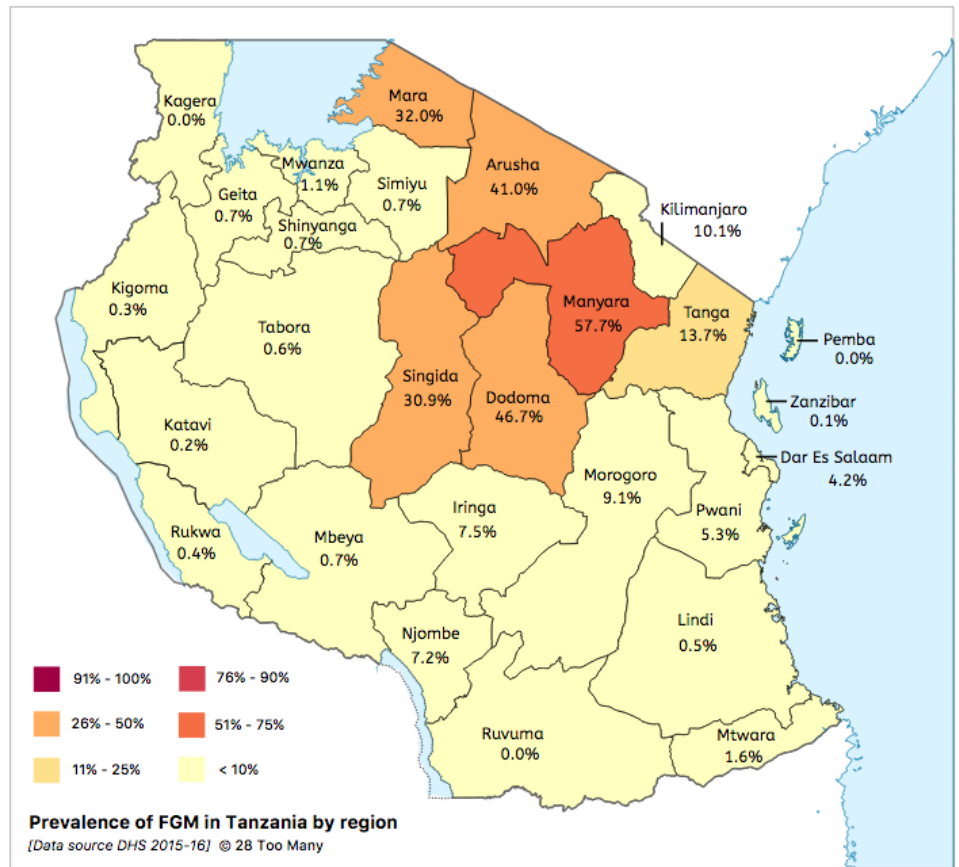
*~ Ministry of Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children permanent secretary, Sihaba Nkinga<sup>12</sup>*

## Prevalence

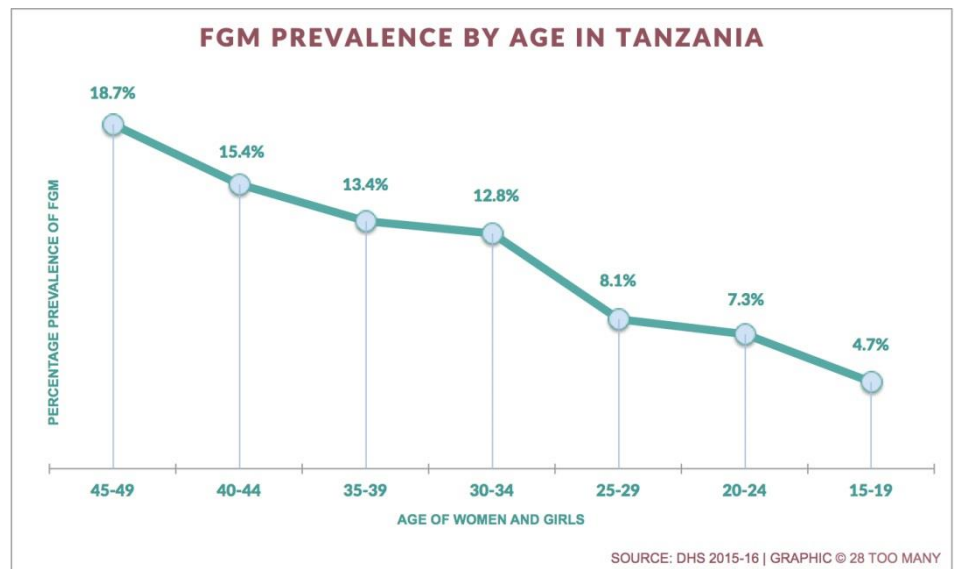
The prevalence of FGM varies greatly across the different regions of Tanzania. The regions with the highest prevalence are in a band extending from the centre of the country northward: Manyara (57.7% of women aged 15–49), Dodoma (46.7%), Arusha (41%), Mara (32.0%) and Singida (30.9%). The prevalence in all other regions is below 15%. Women who live in rural areas are more likely to be cut (12.7% of women aged 15–49) than women who live in urban areas (5.3%).

There is little data available on relative prevalence according to women’s religion; however, 95.1% of women aged 15–49 who have heard of FGM state that they do not believe it is required by their religion.

95% of women aged 15–49 state that they believe FGM should be stopped.<sup>13</sup>



Between 2010 and 2016, the overall prevalence for women aged 15–49 fell from 14.6% to 10%. Due to the large age-range of women included, however, the overall prevalence alone may not fully reflect the progress that has been made in recent years. Breaking down the most recent data by age group shows that the prevalence for women aged 45–49 is 18.7%, while for the youngest age group this has fallen to 4.7%. Despite the fact that a small proportion of women may be cut after the age of 15, the data demonstrates a clear trend towards lower prevalences among younger women.<sup>14</sup>



## Tanzanian Law

The main law criminalising FGM in Tanzania is Article 21 of the Sexual Offences Special Provisions Act 1998, which inserted a new Section 169A(1) into the Penal Code prohibiting FGM on girls under the age of 18 years. Anyone who has custody, charge or care of a girl under the age of 18 who causes her to undergo FGM commits the offence of child cruelty. Enforcement of the law is variable, and cases rarely reach court.

- 1 **(‘DHS’)**: Ministry of Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children (MoHCDGEC) [Tanzania Mainland], Ministry of Health (MoH) [Zanzibar], National Bureau of Statistics (NBS), Office of the Chief Government Statistician (OCGS), and ICF (2016) *Tanzania Demographic and Health Survey and Malaria Indicator Survey (TDHS-MIS) 2015-16*, p.363. Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, and Rockville, Maryland, USA: MoHCDGEC, MoH, NBS, OCGS, and ICF. Available at <http://dhsprogram.com/pubs/pdf/FR321/FR321.pdf> (accessed 7 June 2017).
- 2 DHS, p.363.
- 3 DHS, p.364.
- 4 DHS, p.363.
- 5 UNICEF (2014) *United Republic of Tanzania: Statistical Profile on Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting*, p.2. Available at [https://data.unicef.org/wp-content/uploads/country\\_profiles/United%20Republic%20of%20Tanzania/FGMC\\_TZA.pdf](https://data.unicef.org/wp-content/uploads/country_profiles/United%20Republic%20of%20Tanzania/FGMC_TZA.pdf) (accessed 7 June 2017).
- 6 United Nations Development Programme (2018) *Human Development Reports*. Available at <http://hdr.undp.org/en/2018-update> (accessed 12 June 2019).
- 7 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).
- 8 - Country Meters (2017) *Tanzania*, 1 May 2017. Available at <http://countrymeters.info/en/Tanzania> (accessed 7 June 2017).
- Central Intelligence Agency (2017) *World Factbook: Tanzania*, 30 May. Available at <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/tz.html> (accessed 7 June 2017).
- 9 Countdown to 2030 (2015) *A Decade of Tracking Progress for Maternal, Newborn and Child Survival The 2015 Report: Tanzania, United Republic of*. Available at [http://countdown2030.org/documents/2015Report/Tanzania\\_2015.pdf](http://countdown2030.org/documents/2015Report/Tanzania_2015.pdf) (accessed 7 June 2017).
- 10 WHO, UNICEF, UNFPA, World Bank Group and United Nations Population Division Maternal Mortality Estimation Inter-Agency Group (2015) *Maternal Mortality in 1990-2015: Tanzania*. Available at [http://www.who.int/gho/maternal\\_health/countries/tza.pdf?ua=1](http://www.who.int/gho/maternal_health/countries/tza.pdf?ua=1) (accessed 7 June 2017).
- 11 Central Intelligence Agency, *op. cit.*
- 12 Thomson Reuters Foundation (2017) ‘Over 800 girls circumcised in Tanzania despite govt crackdown on FGM’, *Hindustan Times*, 6 January. Available at <http://www.hindustantimes.com/world-news/over-800-girls-circumcised-in-tanzania-despite-govt-crackdown-on-fgm/story-mdnoJB9S1hYZ3XwtQ2m921.html> (accessed 23 August 2017).
- 13 DHS, pp.363, 365 & 366.
- 14 - DHS, p.363.
- National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) [Tanzania] and ICF Macro (2011) *Tanzania Demographic and Health Survey 2010*. Dar es Salaam, Tanzania: NBS and ICF Macro, p.296. Available at [http://dhsprogram.com/pubs/pdf/FR243/FR243\[24June2011\].pdf](http://dhsprogram.com/pubs/pdf/FR243/FR243[24June2011].pdf) (accessed 7 June 2017).

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

UNICEF (2014) *United Republic of Tanzania: Statistical Profile on Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting*. Available at [https://data.unicef.org/wp-content/uploads/country\\_profiles/United%20Republic%20of%20Tanzania/FGMC\\_TZA.pdf](https://data.unicef.org/wp-content/uploads/country_profiles/United%20Republic%20of%20Tanzania/FGMC_TZA.pdf) accessed 7 June 2017).

### **Images on website:**

- 1 Aleksandar Todorovic (2014) *TANZANIA, AFRICA – FEBRUARY 9, 2014: Masai women with traditional ornaments, review of daily life of local people on February 9, 2014*. Tanzania. Shutterstock ID 187549787.
- 2 Daniel Hurlimann (2017) *Stone Town, Tanzania: A casual street scene with 2 women in the historic Stone Town on Zanzibar Island, Tanzania on Feb 28, 2017*. Shutterstock ID 602868653.
- 3 lidialongobardi77 (2016) *Lake Natron Tanzania Africa 15 February 2016 Four girls belonging Masai tribe sell their beads [jewelry]*. Shutterstock ID 538073332.