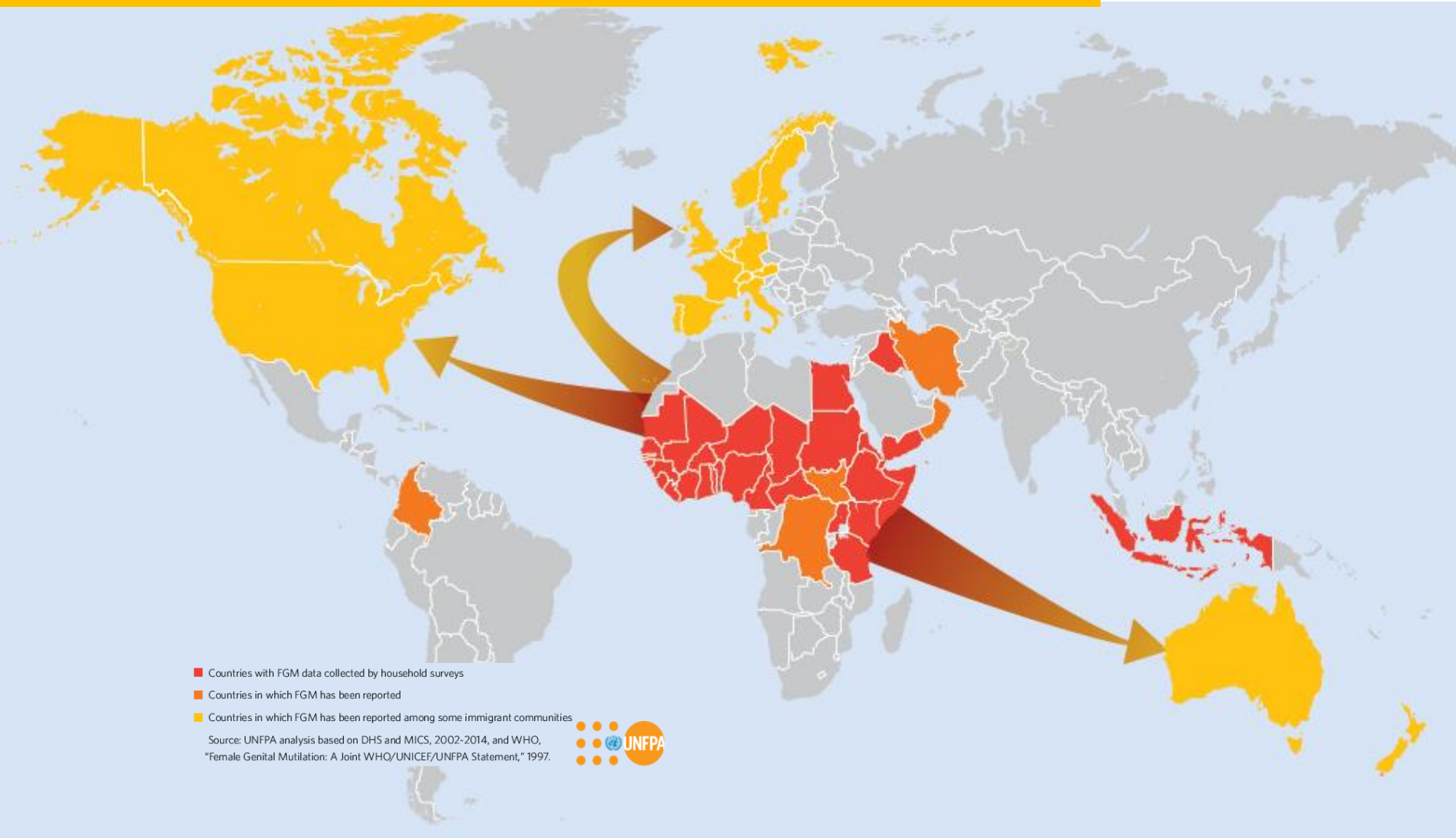




Engaging Midwives and Frontline Healthworkers in FGM Elimination

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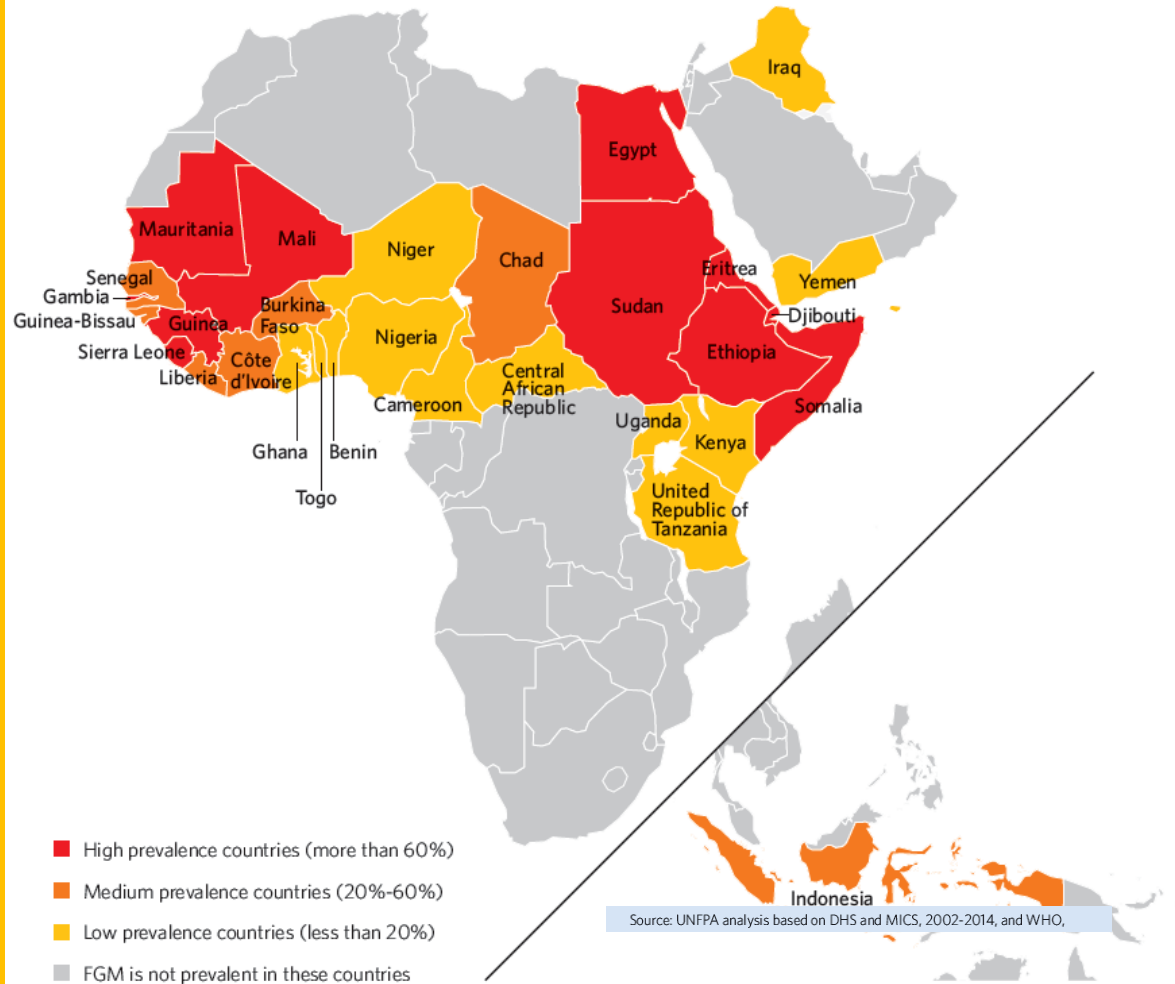
Female genital mutilation is a global issue - it can be found around the world



A recently published UNFPA study analyzes the issue with a focus on girls ages 15-19.

The FGM status among those girls is likely to reflect FGM rate of incidence.

Percentage of girls aged 15-19 experiencing any form of FGM, where data are available, latest data



Source: UNFPA analysis based on DHS and MICS, 2002-2014, and WHO,

FGM is deeply rooted in tradition cultural beliefs that include:

- Prerequisite for marriage
- Rite of passage to adulthood
- Hygiene
- Ensure virginity
- Represent ethnic or cultural identity
- Control sexuality



- **Education is key:**
 - Daughters of uneducated mothers significantly more likely to undergo FGM
- **Acceleration of FGM abandonment is needed:**
 - A growing population in the 29 countries means the number of girls and women cut will increase even if prevalence levels decline
- **Encouraging signs:**
 - 60% of men and 66% of women living in the 29 FGM prevalent countries think the practice should stop
 - FGM is decreasing in the majority of countries

Quick Facts

FGM/female circumcision - Partial or total removal of external female genitalia or other injury to female genital organs

- Widely Practised - 29 African countries + some in Middle East, Asia and Latin America
- 130-140m – already undergone FGM
- 3m undergo FGM every year
- Deeply rooted in tradition
- Growing trend of medicalization (study – 18% or 1/5 cases done by medical practitioners; in some countries even 3 out of 4 cases)

Need to engage midwives and other frontline HWs

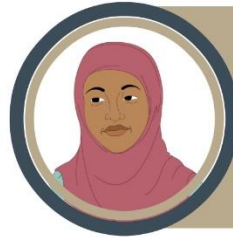
- As trusted members of communities – unique knowledge of cultural practices and who is performing FGM – can play critical role in abandonment
- At times perpetrators of FGM – unable to resist social pressure (rooted in culture)
- Lack knowledge - or ignorance of health consequences of FGM
- Unable to advocate

Midwives can make a major difference!

Why do midwives play a key role in FGM prevention?



Frequent contact with communities



Understand health practices and social dynamics



Authority on health and well-being



Can identify leaders to target



Crucial players in ending medicalization of FGM

HOW CAN MIDWIVES HELP PREVENT FGM?



©: Abbie Trayler-Smith



Role Model



Counselor



Advocate

UNFPA – global leader on FGM and Midwifery



UNFPA/UNICEF
Joint Programme
on FGM

Global Midwifery
Programme

What is needed



- Sensitization
- Training
- Building their advocacy skills

What is UNFPA doing...



Global UNFPA-
UNICEF Joint
Programme

- Global, regional and national advocacy in engaging healthworkers
- Mainstreaming FGM prevention and care in SRH progs and services
- Building capacities of healthcare providers in FGM prevention and case management
- Mainstreaming FGM training in midwifery curriculum
- Revision of WHO guidelines on management of FGM health complications
- In-service training of midwives using new interactive e-learning module
- Engaging men and boys



In the community



In the clinic



As part of a professional association

Key Objectives of the e-Learning Module on FGM Prevention:

The interactive, multi-media E-Learning module with built in quizzes will help educate midwives:

- Human rights violations and health complications caused by FGM
- Strengthen their capacity to serve as champions of FGM prevention through enhanced skills as role models, counselors and advocates for change.

The module can be accessed from: <http://fgmprevention.unfpa.org/>

1

Reduce the number of midwives performing female genital mutilation, including re-infibulation by 50 %

2

Double the number of midwives trained on FGM prevention and care

3

Strengthen the capacity of midwives to serve as champions in female genital mutilation prevention

4

Engage the Midwifery Associations in the 17 target countries in the global campaign to end female genital mutilation

5

Increase the awareness of policy-makers on the key role midwives can play in female genital mutilation prevention and care

6

Ensure that all target programme countries have FGM integrated into the midwifery curriculum

7

Increase the number of girls and women receiving prevention and care services

Thank you!



CHRISTINA MOURAD/UNFPA/EGYPT/2015