

# INTERNATIONAL DAY OF THE GIRL



unicef  
for every child

11 OCTOBER 2024



## Key messages for the International Day of the Girl, 2024

As we celebrate this year's International Day of the Girl, it offers a pivotal opportunity for the global community to rethink how we respond to pressing challenges that disproportionately affect girls, including FGM, gender inequality, and the pushback on their rights in different countries. The complex political climate coupled with gender-biased social norms seriously violates the rights of girls across continents.

However, despite these mounting challenges, girls continue to show resilience and optimism. By investing in their potential, we pave the way toward achieving our global goals. Since its inception in 2008, the UNFPA-UNICEF Joint Programme on the Elimination of FGM has been at the forefront of making tremendous strides in transforming the lives of girls across countries by empowering them with education, access to resources, and support to challenge FGM. It has fostered partnerships with communities, governments, and local organizations, creating an environment where girls can voice their rights, advocate for change, and break free from the cycle of FGM.

On this International Day of the Girl, let's commit to creating a world where girls are not just heard but empowered to lead. Their voices, courage, and aspirations should be at the heart of every decision we make, shaping a future where harmful practices like FGM are eliminated, and girls can achieve their dreams without barriers. Together, we can build a world where every girl thrives, realizing her potential and driving us toward a brighter, more equal future, free from FGM.

With this, let us amplify and advocate on this year's theme: **"Girls' Vision for the Future."**

*Theme Hashtag:* #GirlGoals

*Other Hashtags:* #EndFGM, #HerVoiceMatters

[Trello Board on GirlGoals](#) (embargoed until 11 Oct 2024)

## Key Messages

### General ones:

- FGM stems from deep-rooted gender inequalities and harmful social and cultural norms, hindering girls and women from fully realizing their rights and potential.

- Ending FGM is about empowering girls to lead healthier lives and make informed choices. Achieving this goal is a critical step toward realizing gender equality and ensuring that no one is left behind.
- With only six years left to achieve SDG Target 5.3 and eliminate harmful practices including FGM by 2030, we must urgently rally the global community to intensify efforts. Now is the time to accelerate action, amplify voices, and drive change to ensure FGM becomes a thing of the past.

### Call to action:

To ensure that no girl ever undergoes FGM, we need to scale up and:

- Equip healthcare, social, and psychosocial services with resources to provide compassionate care to girls and survivors, empowering them to heal and thrive.
- Develop a multi-sectoral approach by bringing together law enforcement agencies, justice systems, surveillance mechanisms, and basic service providers to identify girls at risk of undergoing FGM promptly.
- Promote a shared human rights-based vision and commitment towards eliminating FGM and stimulate a process of positive social change.
- Mobilize support by working closely with youth and women-led groups, including faith-based organizations, to bolster the narrative against FGM in communities and bring transformative changes.
- Strengthen community dialogues with parents and religious leaders who can change deeply ingrained attitudes about FGM, which is an important step in the continuum of change toward the abandonment of FGM.

### Key Data Messages:

- FGM has affected 230 million women and girls across the world with around 4 million girls being subjected to the practice every year.
- In total, 400 million people – two thirds of the population – in practising countries in Africa and the Middle East say they want the practice to end.
- The rate of decline would need to be 27 times faster to meet the target of eliminating female genital mutilation by 2030.
- Through joint efforts of UNFPA and UNICEF, in 2023, around **162,044 girls aged 0 to 14 years** were protected from undergoing FGM in the 17 Joint Programme countries.
- In 2023, over **66 million individuals** were reached through mass media messaging on FGM on FGM, women's and girls' rights, and gender equality.
- In the 17 UNFPA and UNICEF Joint Programme countries, over **900,000 girls and women** received FGM prevention and protection services.

### Social Media Messages

- As gender and child rights face pushback in countries, #FGM continues to endanger millions of girls and women. @GPtoEndFGM has been working tirelessly to combat these challenges.

This #DayOfTheGirl let's create a future where every girl is safe, empowered, and free from violence.

- Over 2 million girls face #FGM every year—many before they even turn five. In some places, it happens in the first days of life, leaving us with only a brief window to act. We need to act NOW and FAST. #EndFGM #DayOfTheGirl
- Survivor-led movements are key to #EndFGM. By providing comprehensive care and empowering survivors with education, skills, and opportunities, we strengthen their voices to lead the fight for change. Together, on #DayOfTheGirl, we can drive change and amplify #HerVoiceMatters!

### Key resources

- [Updated Data on FGM – Released by UNICEF in 2024](#)
- [2023 Annual Report of the UNFPA-UNICEF Joint Programme on FGM](#)