

Female genital mutilation (FGM)

The economic burden

Economic burden of female genital mutilation in 27 high-prevalence countries (2022)



World Health Organization



Objective

To estimate the economic burden of FGM in 27 high-prevalence countries.



Methods

The incremental risk of FGM health complications in those affected women was determined through a **meta-analysis**. Associated costs of health care interventions were calculated through **national cohort models** of these high prevalence countries over 30 years.



Key Messages

- This study found the health care costs of FGM to be **US\$1.4 billion per year across the 27 countries** where FGM is practiced.
- **Unless efforts are accelerated to prevent FGM, the results suggest that the number of those affected will continue to rise.**



Research impact

Publication

“Economic burden of female genital mutilation in 27 high-prevalence countries” was published in **BMJ Global Health**.

Cost Calculator

We supported the development of the WHO FGM Cost Calculator, a platform to provide estimates of current and projected financial health care costs associated with FGM in specific countries, as well as potential cost savings to health systems by reducing new cases of FGM.

Webinar

In 2022, we supported the **organisation and execution of a webinar** to promote the publication of the study and bring awareness to this often overlooked health cost burden.

Country Fact Sheets

We developed **27 downloadable country-specific fact sheets for advocacy and dissemination** by national policymakers, which are now live on the Cost Calculator website.

