OPENING UP SDG 5: HOW MUCH DATA IS AVAILABLE ON GENDER EQUALITY?

Access Info webinar, 18/06/2020
Chiara Cosentino, acting Director / Head of policy & Advocacy (@ChiaLinare)

PRESENTATION CONTENT

- Importance of data collection
- FGM: the global picture
- FGM: the European picture
- FGM: the data collection gap & challenges
- Recommendations
Importance of data collection

- Shape evidence-based policies and services
- Assess progress in time
- Measure effectiveness of interventions
- Ensure governmental accountability
- Ensure evidence-based advocacy requests

SDG 5.3.2 ➔ Proportion of girls and women aged 15-49 years who have undergone female genital mutilation/cutting, by age
Female Genital Mutilation
THE GLOBAL PICTURE
FGM/C IS GLOBAL

FGM/C is present in at least 92 countries around the world.

- **CATEGORY 1**: Countries with nationally representative surveys on FGM/C
- **CATEGORY 2**: Countries with indirect estimates on FGM/C
- **CATEGORY 3**: Countries with small-scale studies on FGM/C
- **CATEGORY 4**: Countries where media reports and anecdotal evidence refer to occurrence of FGM/C

Female Genital Mutilation

THE EUROPEAN PICTURE
600,000 survivors

FGM IN EUROPE

200 million women and girls alive today have undergone FGM and 4.1 million have been subjected to FGM only in 2019. It is estimated that there are over 600,000 FGM survivors living in Europe and around 180,000 are at risk in 13 countries alone.

Sources
- Belgium: Prévalence des mutilations génitales féminines en Belgique, 2016
- France: Estimate of adult women with female genital mutilation living in France, 2019
- Germany: Dunkelfeldentwurf zu weiblicher Genitalveränderung in Deutschland, Turm des Frauenza, 2019
- UK: Prevalence of Female Genital Mutilation in England and Wales: National and local estimates, 2015
- Netherlands: Vrouwenlijke Genitale Verminking: Oorsprong en risico van Genderfreniere en weiblicher Genitalveränderung in Deutschland, Turm des Frauenza, 2019
- Portugal: Maioridade Feminina: prevalências, dimensões socioeconómicas e recomendações para a sua eliminação, 2015
- Finland: Action plan for the prevention of female genital mutilation (FGM), 2019
- Switzerland: Prevenzione, Versorgung, Schutz und Intervention im Bereich der weiblichen Genitalveränderung (FGM) in der Schweiz, 2014
- Ireland: IrishLive estimates based on data collected by Ireland’s Central Statistics Office, 2016
- Italy: Stima della prevalenza FGM in Italia e del numero di bambini a rischio, 2019

This data has been internally gathered by the End FGM European Network using existing studies. It should be noted that methodologies used for the studies differ as well as the years of data collection. In the meantime, some countries have noted significant increases in the numbers. The collection of data continues to be a huge challenge.
FGM prevalence: the data collection gap & challenges

Main challenges/limitations of indirect estimates:
1. Lack of available disaggregated data on diaspora communities
2. Asylum seekers, refugees & undocumented migrants not included
3. Lack of consideration for possible change of attitudes due to migration
4. Only consider countries with nationally representative surveys on FGM

Some room for improvement – considering additional elements:
✓ age at arrival
✓ female migrant in an irregular situation
✓ number of women and girls having been granted asylum due to FGM
✓ direct estimation of prevalence for some specific communities
✓ specific age and regional estimations before and after migration
✓ level of acculturation

Lack of common methodology
180,000 girls at risk

IE 14,577 girls, 1-11% at risk
PT 5,835 girls, 5-23% at risk 2015
SE 59,409 girls, 3-19% at risk

2016 UK 67,300 girls at risk
2017 DE 25,325 girls, 6-17% at risk

BE 22,544 girls, 16-27% at risk
EL 1,787 girls, 25-42% at risk
FR 205,683 girls, 12-21% at risk 2018
IT 76,040 girls, 15-24% at risk
CY 758 girls, 12-17% at risk
MT 485 girls, 39-57% at risk

2018 FI 3,000 girls at risk
2019 NL 4,200 girls at risk

Source: EIGE + national countries estimations
EIGE methodology to estimate girls at risk

Common methodology used in Europe also by some Member States

- **Extrapolation**
  - Prevalence rate of FGM in practising countries
  - Migrant population (0-18) in an EU country
  - Focus group discussions with migrant communities in EU

**FGM RISK**

Further refined in 2018

- New patterns of migration
- Travelling to the country of origin major risk factor
- ‘Opportunity to cut’ in the EU differs from the country of origin
- Sensitivity of the matter
RECOMMENDATIONS
1. Increase and sustain **funding for data collection and research** on FGM

2. **Fill the data gaps** that exist outside the 32 countries which have nationally representative prevalence data on FGM

3. Generate **nationally representative data on FGM** in countries where there is evidence of widespread practice of FGM across the country

4. In countries where the practice of FGM is more localized, generate **more robust data** either through nationally representative surveys or through **specific research surveys/studies** which produce accurate, reliable and comprehensive data

5. **Improve available indirect estimates on FGM** by ensuring the use of more rigorous methodologies, utilizing **consistent methods** across countries to enable comparison of the data, and systematically updating the indirect estimates at regular intervals

6. Involve **academics** and health **professionals**, as well as affected **communities** and **survivors**, in the process of data collection and research

7. Consider including **indicator 5.3.2.** within **Eurostat** set of indicators to monitor progress at EU level on SDGs
Let's stay in touch:

www.endfgm.eu
@ENDFGM_Network
@endfgmeuropeannetwork
@end_fgm_european_network