

What's the Funding Gap?

Hello,

Over 200 million girls and women alive today have experienced female genital cutting/mutilation. And this number is on the rise.

While prevention efforts were on track to avert 46.5 million cases of FGC, experts are now predicting that the delays being caused by the COVID-19 pandemic will reduce anticipated progress toward ending FGC by 33%. According to a joint report by UNICEF and UNFPA, an estimated 2 million additional girls are at risk of being cut over the next decade, bringing the total number of girls at risk to 70 million by 2030. These horrific figures are simply unacceptable.

Before COVID-19 slowed down progress in eliminating FGM/C, the Sustainable Development Goals target 5.3.2 to end female genital cutting by 2030 was already an ambitious commitment. Rhetoric was simply not matched with financial commitments, and this was only exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Only \$95 is required to avert one single case of FGM/C and to protect a girls' right to health, to bodily integrity, to freedom from violence and to enjoy her sexuality. A relatively small price to pay which pales in comparison with global spending on increasing militarisation (almost \$2 trillion per year) and growth based on exploitation of natural resources. By investing \$2.4 billion by 2030 we could end FGM/C all together in 31 priority countries. Yet only \$275 million is available – or just \$4 per girl at risk – leaving a funding gap of >\$2.1 billion.

Grassroots organisations that are at the forefront of prevention efforts have raised their collective voice to urge governments, foundations, private sector, and other donors to urgently increase funding to the FGM/C sector.

As 2030 is approaching fast, genuine commitment of bridging this substantial resource gap and putting an end to this harmful practice must be embraced with a sense of extreme urgency. Funding must be increased now, and it is essential for investment to come from different sources – from multilateral donors, philanthropy, and the private sector, in addition to domestic resources committed by national Governments.

ORCHID  PROJECT

WORKING TOGETHER TO END
FEMALE GENITAL CUTTING

The Foundry
17-19 Oval Way, London SE11 5RR