

Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)

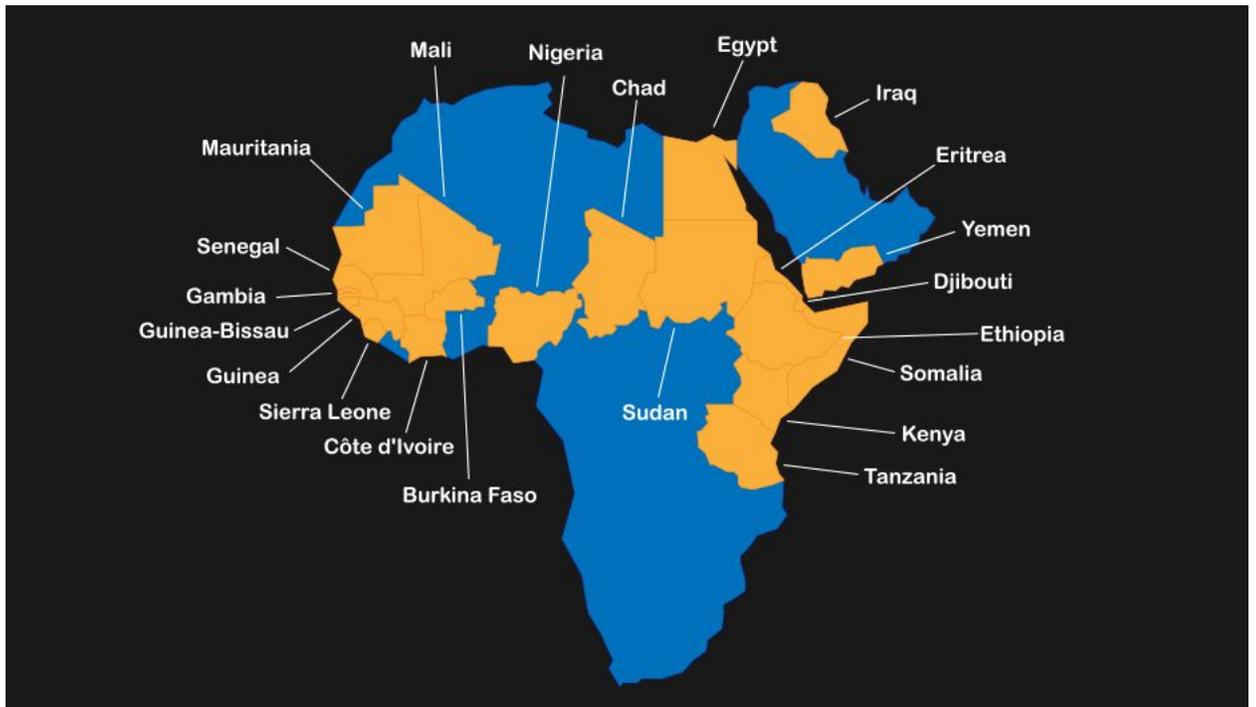
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Introduction

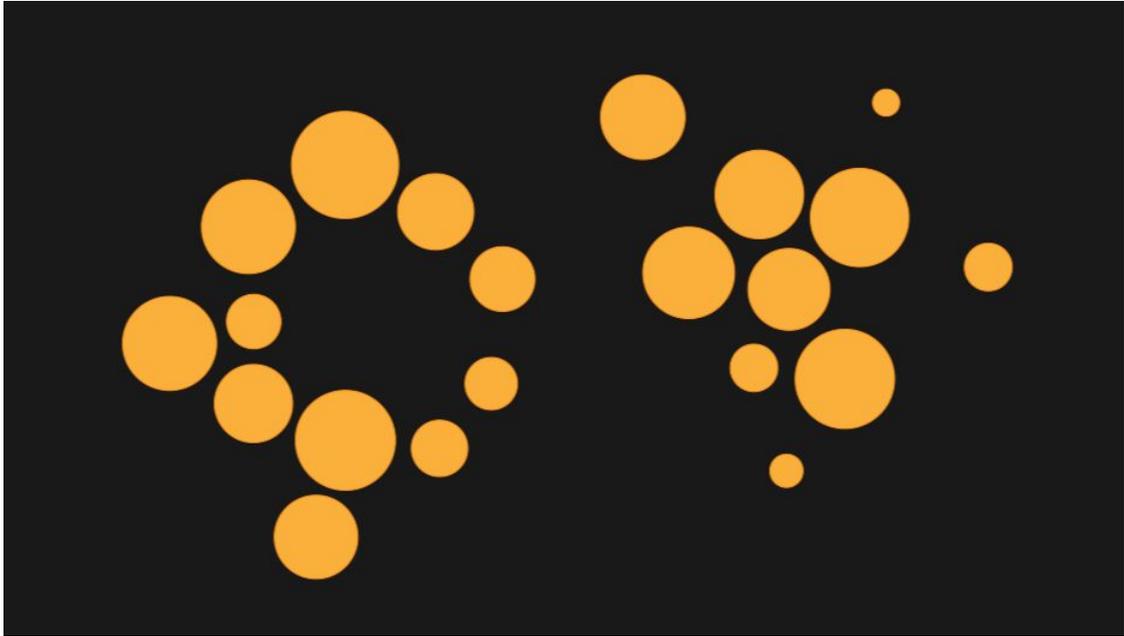
FGM is the practice of cutting a woman's genitalia. It is often done at a young age and involves the removal of flesh or closing the vagina. Despite having no health benefits it is still practised today. As this topic is unknown to many, we will shed light on it.

Visualization #1 story:

Although FGM happens in a surprising amount of countries in the world, it is most prevalent in Africa and the Middle east.

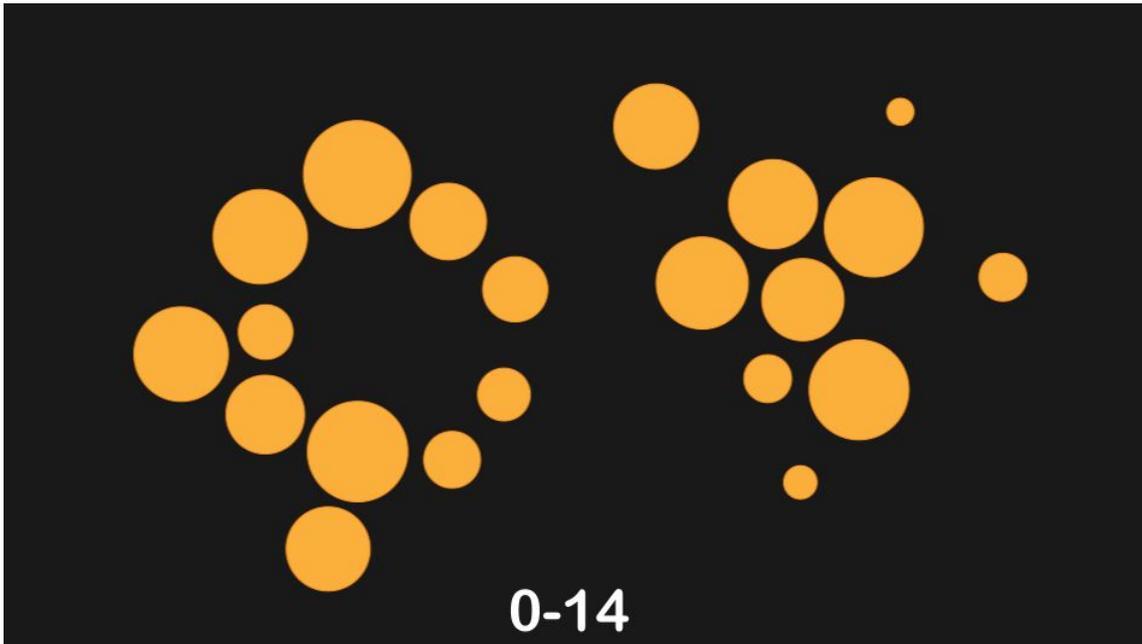


The percentage of women having undergone FGM varies on a country by country basis...

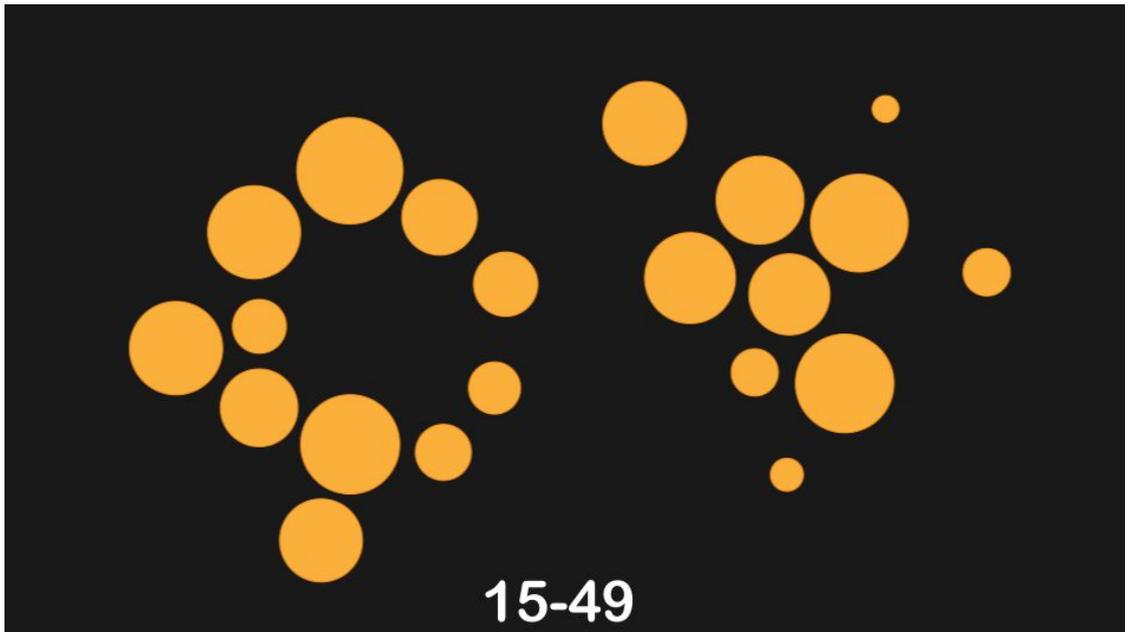


(size of bubble represents FGM percentage regardless of age group per country)

...it is also different per age group. Some FGM victims are below the age of 14. However, the percentage of victims above that age is substantially higher.



(imagine these turn into pie charts with the percentage of women with FGM aged 0-14 per country)

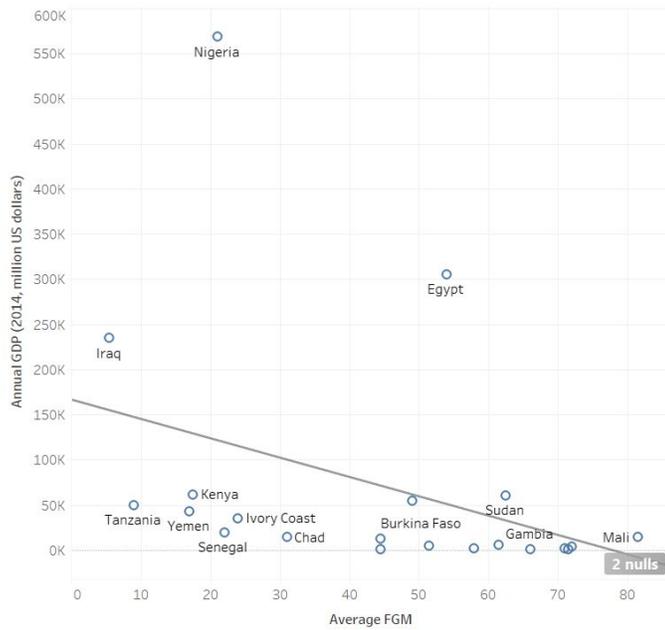


(the pie charts then change to represent the percentages for women aged 15-49)

Visualization #2 story:

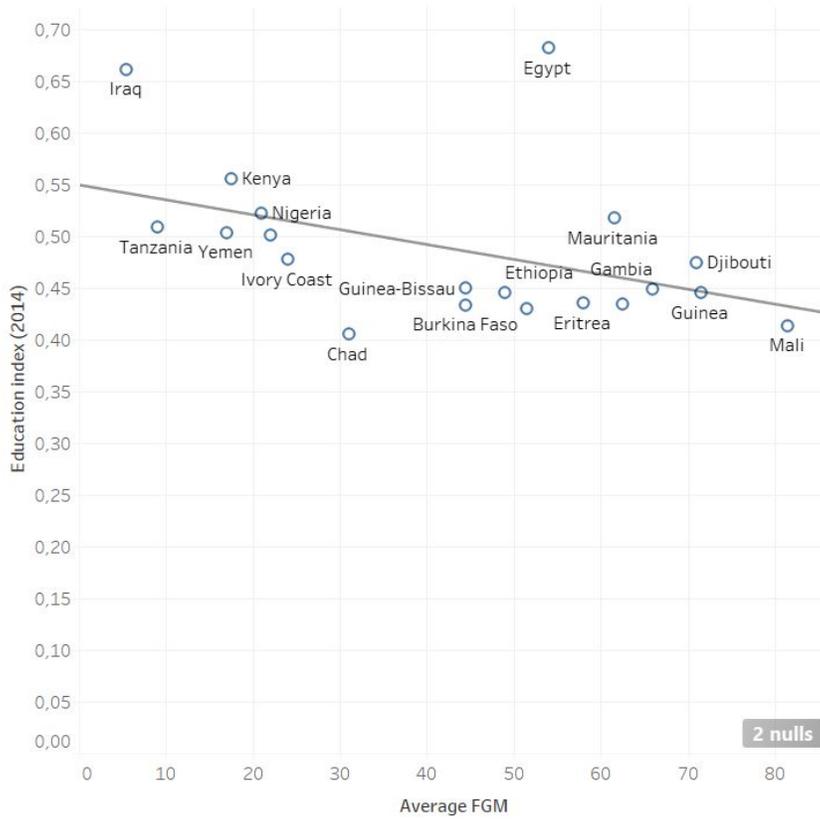
Regardless, it appears that the percentage is negatively correlated to the country's annual GDP. The countries with FGM prevalence are generally poorer countries. Furthermore, the lower their GDP is, the higher the average percentage of FGM victims seems to be. However, this correlation does not seem very strong.

FGM vs Annual GDP



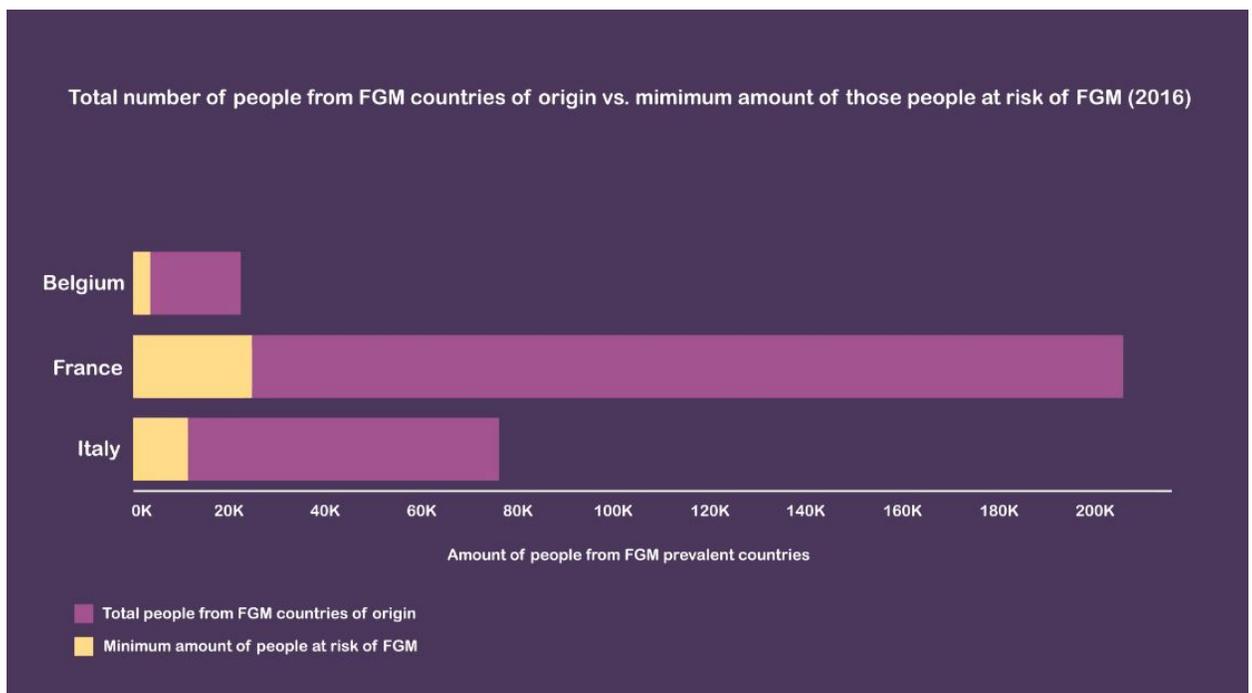
Similarly, less educated countries seem to have higher FGM percentages. Though, once more, the correlation between the two appears relatively weak.

FGM vs Education Index



Visualization #3 story:

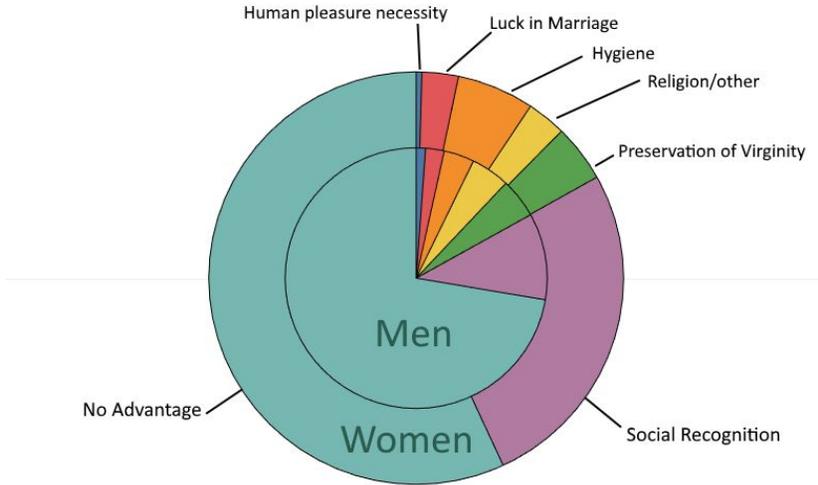
Of course, just because poorer and less educated countries have higher FGM prevalence does not mean that 1st and 2nd world countries are FGM free. Many countries across Europe still provide asylum to FGM survivors and people from countries with FGM prevalence. Sadly, a portion of those people still face the risk of undergoing the procedure. But why are people still experiencing FGM?



Ruben

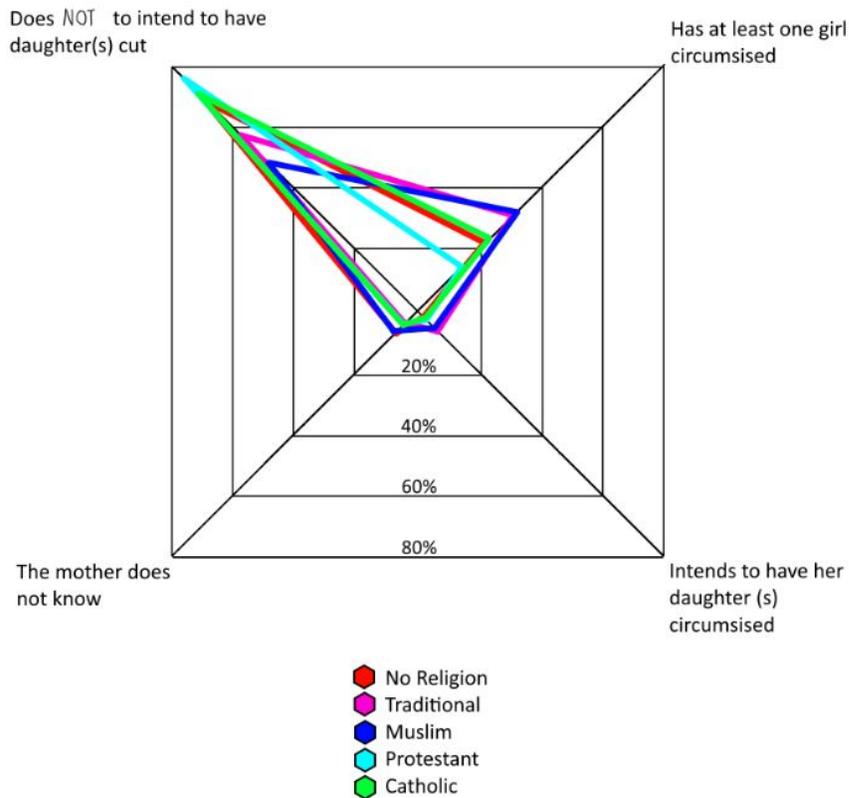
Visual #1

Several reasons are given by both men and women. Social recognition is a prominent factor for supporting FGM. Other reasons include Preservation of Virginity, religion, hygiene, luck in marriage and necessity for greater pleasure. However, most people think there is no advantage. Surprisingly, men even more than women. Despite popular belief, religion is not a common reason for FGM.



Visual #2

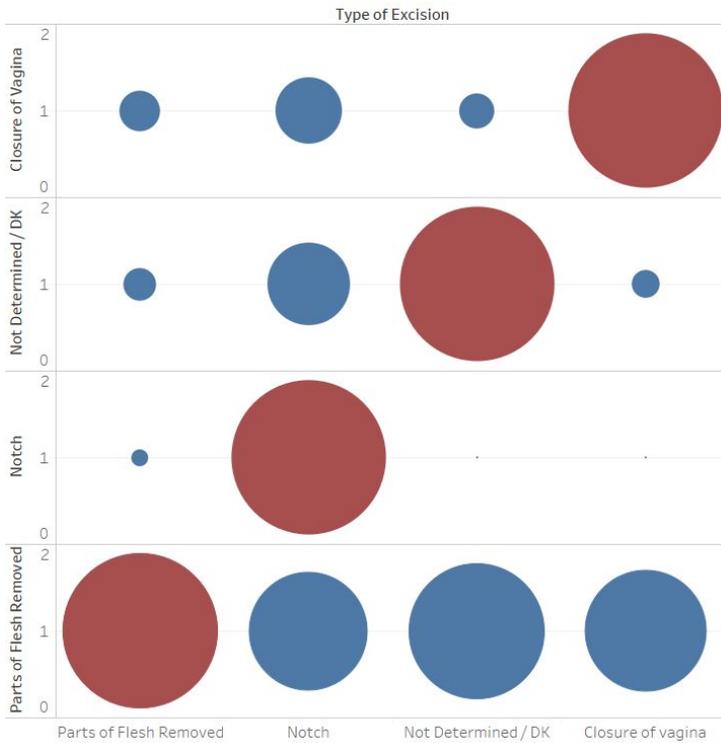
Distribution of women with at least one living child according to if circumcised or not per religion (in %)



Moreover, mothers from different religions with at least one daughter are almost unanimous about their views on FGM, as can be seen in Burkina Faso. Therefore, religion seems to have little influence on the mother's decision. Although many mothers do not have the intention to cut their daughters, circumcision rates still remain high as many others still have at least one daughter circumcised.

Visual #3

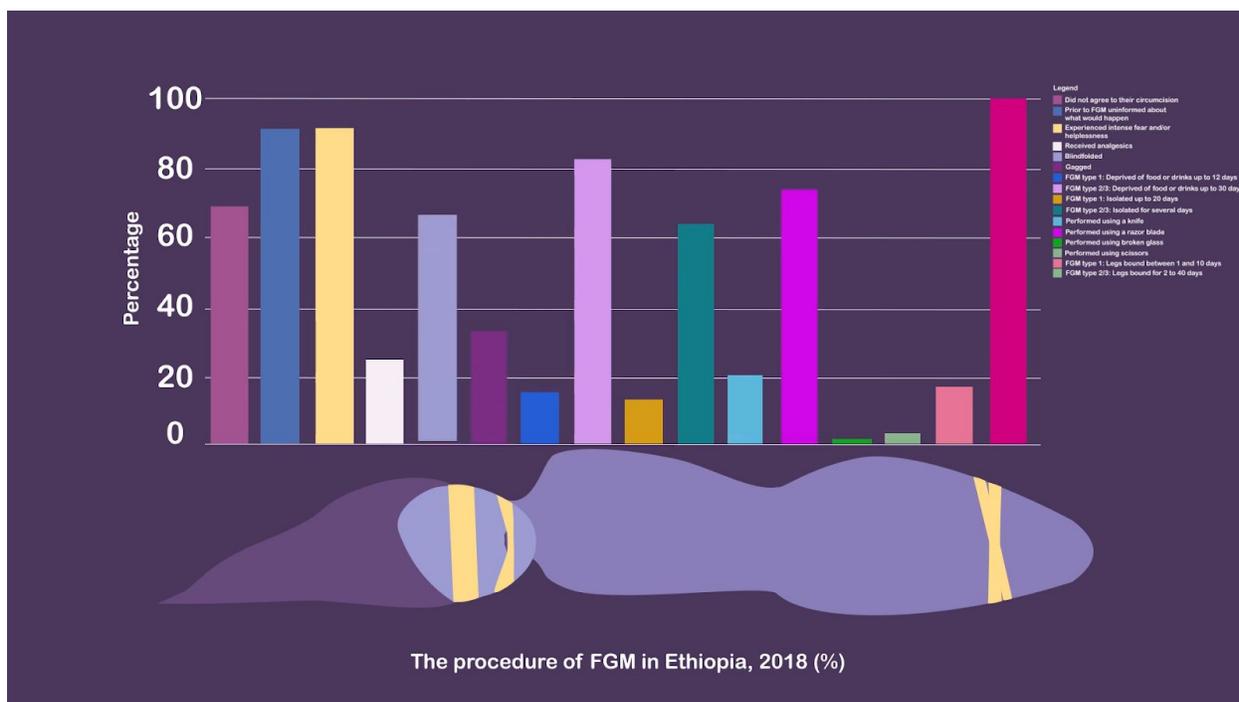
Mother's FGM Type vs Daughter's Type



Furthermore, if we compare the type of FGM performed on a mother to the type of FGM performed on her child, then we start to see a trend. The number of children who have the same FGM procedure as their mother is large, suggesting FGM practises are executed out of embedded traditions.

Ummu

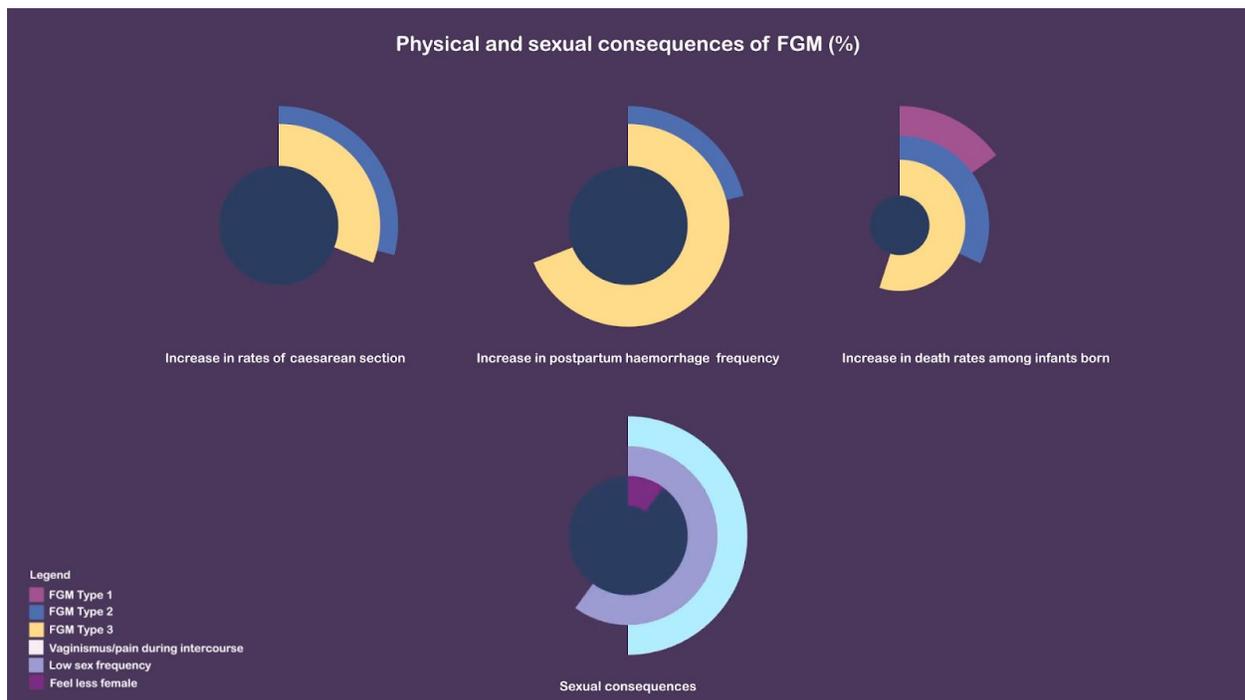
Visualization #1 story:



(procedure)

Even though many reasons have been mentioned for performing FGM, the majority of the time, the girls undergoing FGM were uninformed and had not consented. While going through this cruel procedure, many of the girls did not get painkillers. The girls felt intense fear and helplessness. Afterwards, depending on the type of FGM, girls had their legs bound together and were left isolated and without food or drinks for days.

Visualization #2 story:



(physical and sexual)

After the procedure, FGM leads to many complications and health issues. Depending on the type of FGM, the girls experience a different amount of problems. What can be seen is that the girls who went through type 3 of FGM, face issues the most frequently.

However, when discussing psycho-sexual and sexual complaints, all girls who underwent FGM feel similarly. These issues they face are often long-term.

Visualization #3 story:



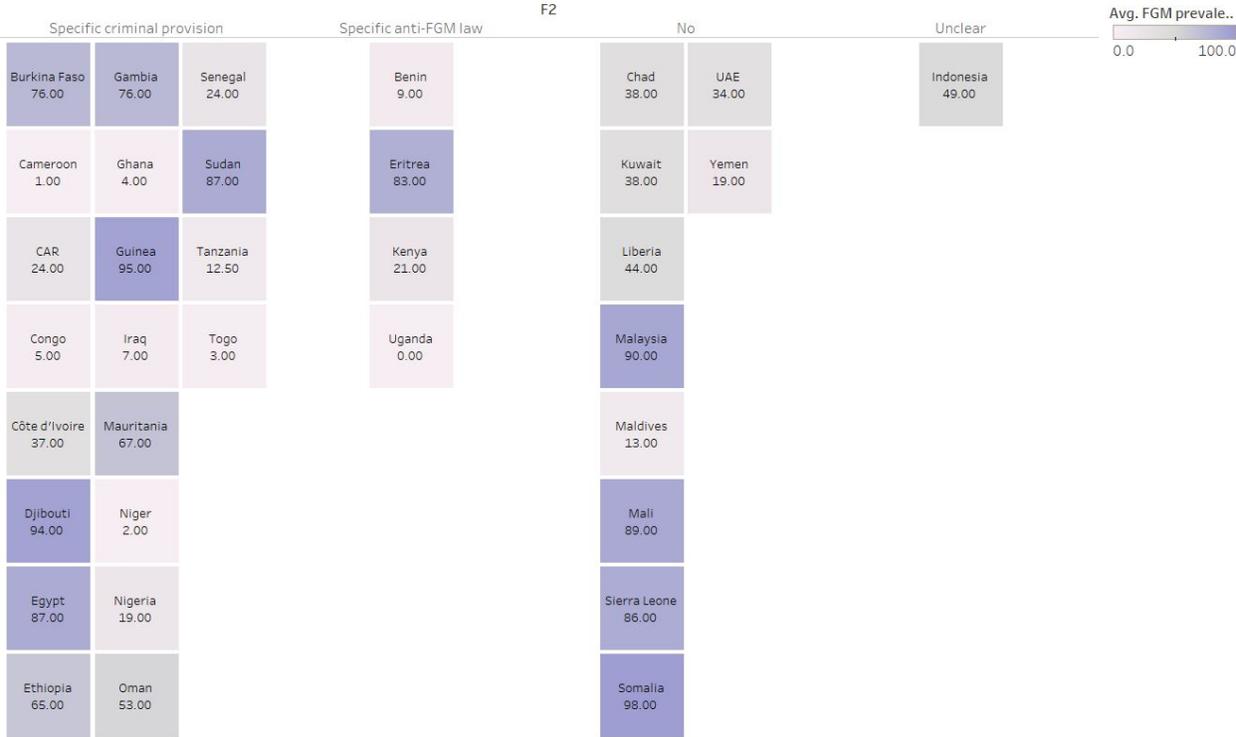
(mental)

The procedure, the physical and the sexual issues often leave these girls scarred. Their mental health is affected. Most of them suffer from re-experiencing their circumcision. Moreover, PTSD, anxiety disorders, memory problems, divorce and depression are more prevalent in girls who have undergone FGM than girls who have not. Almost 10% have suicidal thoughts.

Leonardo

Visualisation #1:

FGM Laws

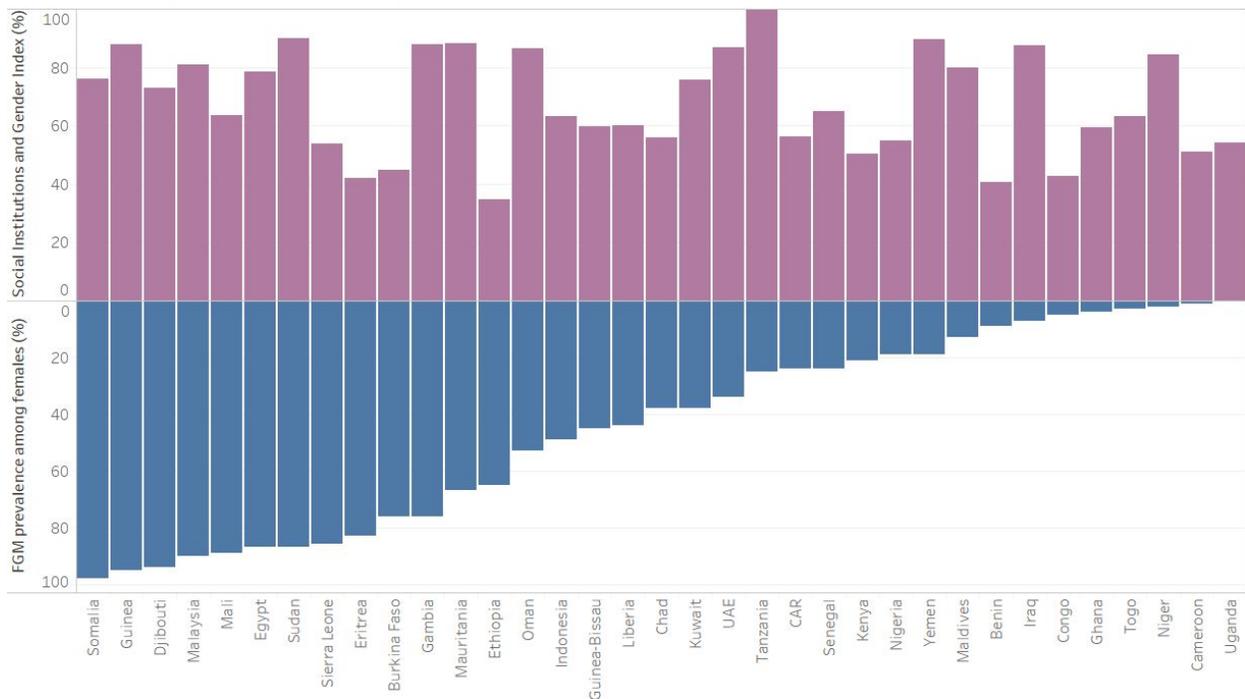


Country and average of FGM prevalence among girls and women (%) (FGM prevalence.csv+ (Multiple Connections)) broken down by F2. Color shows average of FGM prevalence among girls and women (%) (FGM prevalence.csv+ (Multiple Connections)). The marks are labeled by Country and average of FGM prevalence among girls and women (%) (FGM prevalence.csv+ (Multiple Connections)). The data is filtered on Country (FGM prevalence.csv+ (Multiple Connections)), which keeps 36 of 36 members.

Because the consequences are so cruel and infringe human rights, there are organisations like UNICEF working to ban FGM worldwide. However, not all countries have prohibited FGM. Despite the remainder having done so, they all seem to have varying amounts of the practice going on, regardless of laws on the matter. So the laws may not be enforced effectively.

Visualisation #2:

SIGI and FGM prevalence among girls and women (%)

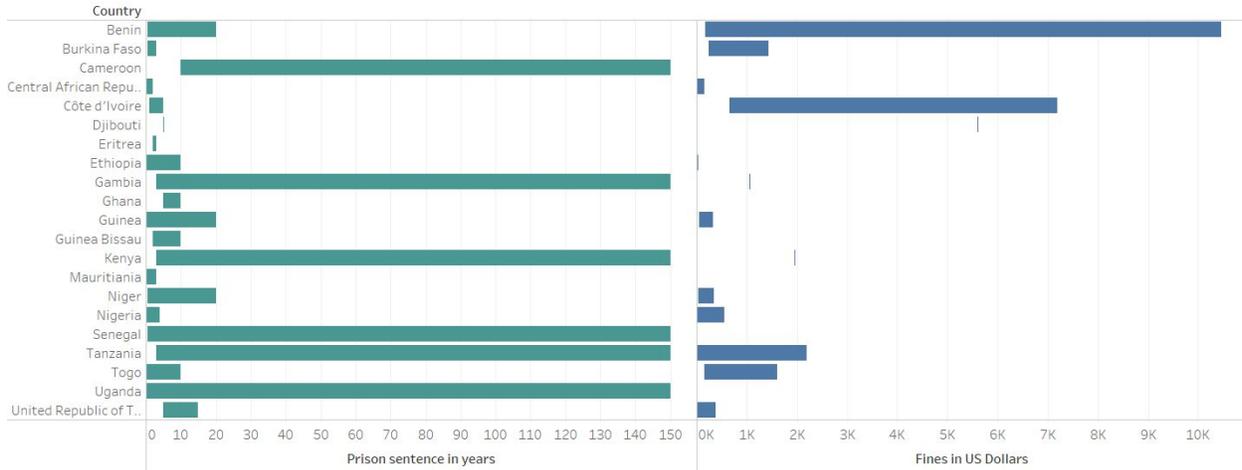


Sum of SIGI value and sum of FGM prevalence among girls and women (%) for each Country. The data is filtered on indicatorLabel, which keeps Discrimination in the family (SIGI2019).

Since there seems to be no strong correlation between FGM prevalence and the laws against it, we decided to look at the SIGI of the countries as well. SIGI is the Social Institutions and Gender Index. The higher it is the worse the country is doing in terms of gender equality. While examining the FGM prevalence vs this index, there does seem to be some correlation between the two statistics. All countries that perform FGM (that are mentioned) have a high index, meaning that such countries generally do not treat women equally.

Visualisation #3:

Possible penalties per country with FGM laws



Sum of Prison sentence min (years) and sum of Fine Min (dollar) for each Country. For pane Sum of Fine Min (dollar): Size shows SUM([Fine Max (dollar)]-[Fine Min (dollar)]). For pane Sum of Prison sentence min (years): Size shows SUM([Prison sentence max (years)]-[Prison sentence min (years)]).

We can delve even deeper by looking at how FGM is punished in the most prevalent countries where FGM is illegal. The higher the value, the higher the penalty for that country. In the long run, even though there are legal measures against FGM, most don't seem to be effective, because despite these laws and penalties, FGM percentages are still high.

Clara

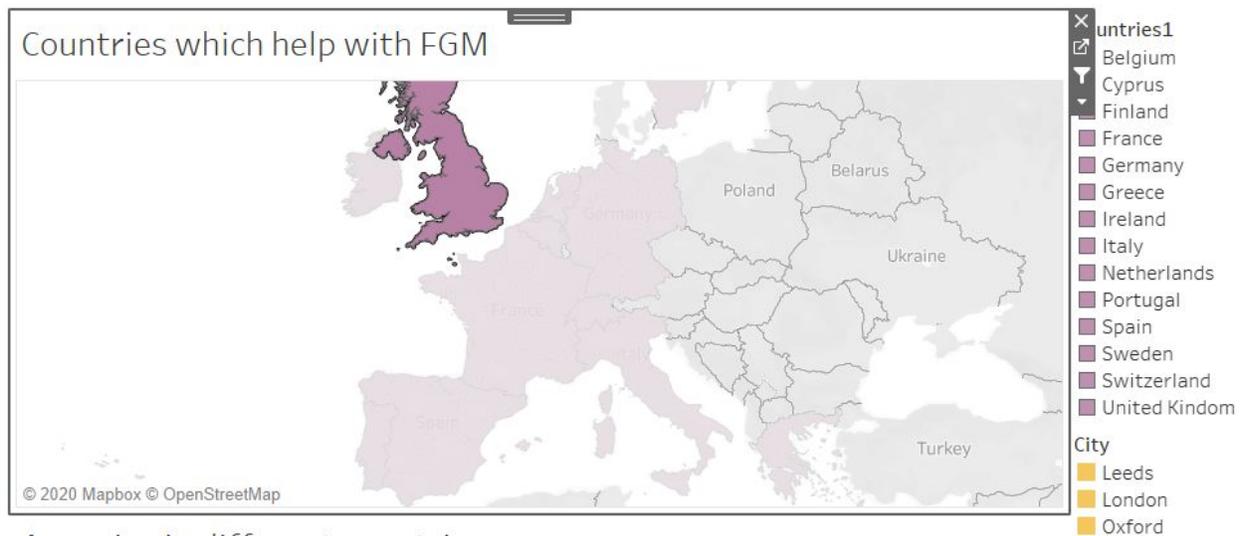
Visualisation #1:

Arests vs Cases brought to court vs Convincions



Even so, there are still some results. In several African countries for example, there have been arrests, convictions and cases brought to court each year since 2015, with the number of arrests being the majority.

Visualisation #2:

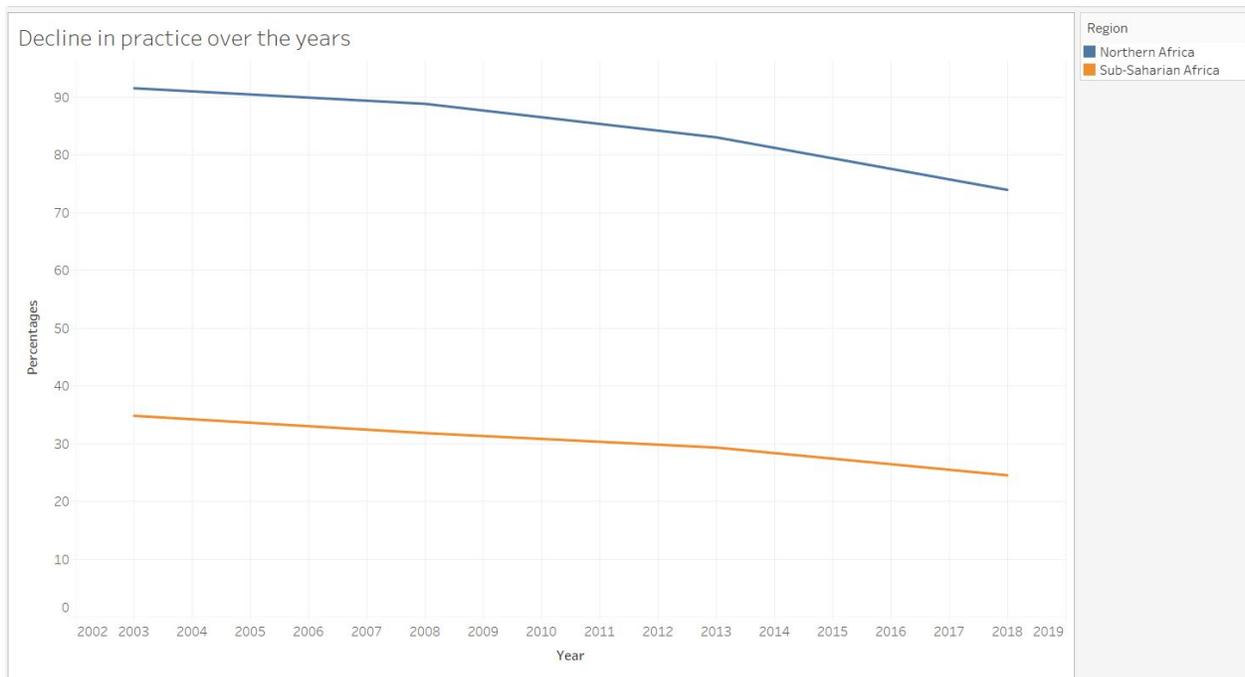


Agencies in different countries



Outside of Africa, ending the practice has been introduced in the global development agenda as target 5.3 and there are more and more organizations which are trying to put an end to it. Victims or potential victims in Europe now have a large array of organizations spread over 13 different countries where they can ask for help. Most of these organizations are part of a network called 'End FGM European Network'.

Visualisation #3:



Fortunately, the number of cases seems to be slowly declining at a steady rate. Even though this is still a problem, things seem to be moving in the right direction.

But more action needs to be taken to get FGM to a grinding halt. This is why supporting charities, organisations and other groups fighting against this cruel practice is important. Together, we can educate and bring FGM to its FG-end!