

FGC

IN ASIA AND THE MIDDLE EAST

Female genital cutting (FGC) affects over 200 million women and girls worldwide. National prevalence data on FGC exists for 30 countries, 27 in Africa and only 3 in the Middle East and Asia - Iraq, Yemen and Indonesia. FGC happens elsewhere in the Middle East and Asia, see map below.

Reasons for the continuation of FGC are varied; drivers include tradition, culture and social pressure. In some places FGC is believed to be an Islamic imperative although the practice is not endorsed by any religion. FGC is not mentioned in the Koran and is not practised by the majority of Muslims worldwide.



Medicalisation is on the rise; in Indonesia over 50% of girls aged 0-11 years old were cut by a trained medical professional



85% of girls in Yemen are cut within their first week of life



FGC is sometimes offered as part of a birth package in Indonesian hospitals, alongside vaccinations and ear piercing

