

2023-2025

Halfway through our Strategy

OUR PROGRESS SO FAR

Orchid Project launched a five-year strategy in 2023, identifying key actions to drive our efforts to end FGM/C. Since then, the broader landscape we operate in- and the FGM/C sector in general- has changed significantly. As we reach the halfway point in our strategy, it is important to reflect on our progress so far and recognise that the context in which our strategy was designed is no longer the same.

In the second half of our strategy implementation, we will adapt to this new environment and ensure our work remains responsive and impactful. At a time when women's rights are facing pushback and funding priorities are shifting, it is more vital than ever to keep FGM/C firmly on the global agenda.

WE WOULD
LIKE TO
HIGHLIGHT
THESE KEY
ACTIVITIES
BETWEEN
2023-2025:

Research

To generate evidence and curate knowledge to better equip those working to end FGM/C



Orchid Project launched the FGM/C Research Initiative (FGMCRI) [website](#). It contains global data, research, and reports on FGM/C from over 70 countries.



FGMCRI has become an integral resource for **117,000 active users** interested in understanding country, regional, and thematic trends around the practice. Our reports and products are **cited in academic journals, by UN bodies, used in asylum cases**, and are a key part of programme design to end FGM/C.



The World Health Organization commissioned Orchid Project to **create a guide for civil society organisations to conduct their own research and evaluations**. This is a key step in building capacity and filling gaps in evidence at the local level.

Advocacy

To influence global and regional policies, actions, and funding to end FGM/C



Orchid Project raised awareness of FGM/C as a global health issue. **We co-hosted an event with the Global Platform for Action to End FGM/C at the World Health Summit 2025**, highlighting FGM/C as a global health emergency. Our team also contributed to The International Federation of Obstetrics and Gynaecology (FIGO) Global Call to Action on FGM.



Through our [Close the Funding Gap](#) campaign in 2024, Orchid Project rallied joint collective action, engaging numerous partners and **reaching over 170,000** people online. The campaign helped to draw greater attention to the persistent funding gap in efforts to end FGM/C.



Orchid Project partnered with the University of Birmingham (UoB) to highlight key findings for their [research](#) identifying **FGM/C as a leading cause of death for girls in Africa**. Through high-level dialogue sessions, a campaign, and a co-authored policy brief, this research received significant attention from the sector, which helped position **FGM/C as a global health emergency**.

What we knew

4.3 million
girls are at risk
of FGM/C every year

What was hidden

Over 230
million survivors

44,320
deaths annually

4th leading
cause of death among
women and girls

Our **Close the Funding Gap** campaign reached over 170,000 people online

“(MICROPHONE) Podcast success

Orchid Project collaborated with The Story of Woman on a 3 part podcast series. This featured our advocacy and research work, brought to life by the stories of two communities in Kenya: one Maasai and one Somali. We were nominated for 3 podcast awards, **winning the Bronze People's Lovie award for Best Branded Podcast** and coming **second place in the Women**

Who Podcast Award in the category of Compelling Storytelling. The series has featured in multiple online publications and has been mentioned on several other podcast platforms, giving significant visibility to our work and FGM/C to a new, public audience across Europe, the US and Africa.

‘Winning the Bronze People's Lovie award for the Best Branded Podcast’



Regional Networks

To catalyse, support, and strengthen regional networks to actively participate in the movement to end FGM/C



Orchid Project helped to launch the End FGM/C Africa Network, a critical step towards a more united voice across the continent to advocate to end FGM/C.



We assisted the **Asia Network** to end FGM/C in increasing its independence and visibility. This helped it to become a key voice on FGM/C in the region. We also worked with the Asia Network to analyse FGM/C in Indonesia and Malaysia. This research is essential for understanding the practice in both countries.



We supported **young people from youth organisations** and networks in East Africa. They participated in **influencing and lobbying East African Legislative Members on the East Africa Community (EAC) FGM Bill**. This was part of The Girl Generation: Support to the Africa Led Movement to End FGM programme.

Orchid Project believes that strong, independent regional networks can drive the movement to end FGM/C. A united global voice that includes survivors, youth, grassroots, and key stakeholders is essential for ending this practice. At the same time, advocacy and programming are most effective when underpinned by research and evidence, and Orchid Project is committed to closing knowledge gaps and encouraging evidence uptake within programming and policy. Each of these areas contributes to our vision of a world free of FGM/C.

Here's how you can help

Advocate for a global end to Mutilation/Cutting

Lend your voice, tell your friends and be an active supporter!

Visit orchidproject.org to find out more.

Join our community

Keep up to date with our latest activities and news joining our [newsletter](#).

Donate

Without your support we cannot make our plans to end cutting a reality.

Please visit orchidproject.org/donate or scan the QR to make a gift.



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