Female Circumcision

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What is FGM

• It refers to the non-medical and traditional practice in which a surgical alteration is performed on female genitalia.

• This practice is internationally recognized as a violation of human rights and a form of violence against girls and women.
Despite decades of national campaigns and community initiatives, as well as criminalization of the practice, female genital mutilation (FGM) remains common practice in Egypt.

It has been measured in Egypt since 1995.

According to Demographic and Health Survey 2014 (DHS), More than 9 in 10 ever-married women aged 15-49 have been circumcised.
The Decline over time in FGM prevalence is very low among ever-married women age 15-49.
However, trend in Prevalence of FGM among daughters age 0-17 years declined over time.
Attitudes towards female circumcision among ever-married women age 15-49 is declining.
IMAGES Methodology

• IMAGES MENA Egypt household survey was conducted by El-Zanaty and Associates, under the aegis of Promundo and UNWomen.

• A total of 2937 households were successfully interviewed with response rate 97.9%.

• 1380 Men and 1402 Women were successfully interviewed with response rate exceeded 99% for both men and women.

• FGM was addressed to men as well as women
92% of currently married women aged 18-59 have been circumcised and 89% of currently men reported that their wives had been circumcised.

69% of currently married men and 75% of currently married women who have daughter mentioned that any one them had been circumcised.
Overview on IMAGES Results

Men are more supportive to FGM than women

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Approve of female circumcision**</th>
<th>Female circumcision should continue**</th>
<th>Approve of marrying uncircumcised women</th>
<th>Approve of circumcising his/her daughter*</th>
<th>Approve of a son marrying an uncircumcised woman</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Men</strong> 70</td>
<td><strong>Men</strong> 68</td>
<td><strong>Women</strong> 52</td>
<td><strong>Women</strong> 53</td>
<td><strong>Women</strong> 51</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Women</strong> 56</td>
<td><strong>Women</strong> 52</td>
<td><strong>Women</strong> 32</td>
<td><strong>Women</strong> a</td>
<td><strong>Women</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Difference between men and women are significant at:  *P-value < 0.05  ** P-value < 0.01

a: Question not included in the women’s questionnaire.
Men are more likely to circumcise their daughter in the future than women.
Overview on IMAGES Results

Men are significantly involved in decision-making on female circumcision

Men in the respondent’s family participate in the decision about (his/her) daughter’s circumcision
Overview on IMAGES Results

Both male and female family members jointly participate in girl’s circumcision decision

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Men</th>
<th>Women</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Female family members</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male family members</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Both male and female family members</td>
<td>66</td>
<td>71</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neither</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Implications

• **Policies and projects** directed to eliminate FGM in Egypt have to also engage men, and whose power to be matched by their enthusiasm for the practice.

• **More research** is required to better understand the gendered nature of negotiations and power dynamics that characterize family decisions on FGM.