INTRODUCTION

• 200 million women and girls have undergone FGM/C in more than 30 countries
• 91.4% of women and girls aged 15-49 years undergone FGM/C in Mali
• 94.7% of women and girls undergone FGM/C in Kayes region, Mali

OBJECTIVES

• Document and assess practice of FGM/C in faith communities
• Assess potential of faith to end FGM/C in Kayes region

METHODS

• Qualitative approach
• Key informant interviews
• Informal conversations
• Focus Group Discussion

RESULTS

• FGM/C practised in both Christian and Muslim communities
• FGM/C linked to tradition
  “Some do it because they found their parents, grand parents have done it. It is a tradition left by ancestors” Pastor from Kayes
• Misinterpretation of holy scriptures
  FGM/C is a religious requirement but must be done “the right way”
• Lack of faith response
• Survivors’ voices
  “FGM/C happens in our churches and mosques. We need to stop this practice because it is a matter of someone’s life” Survivor from Yélimané

CONCLUSIONS

• Faith leaders are respected in their faith groups and wider community
• Faith leaders have unique mandate to speak on issues affecting communities
• Faith leaders must be recognised as key allies in the prevention and response to FGM/C
• Faith leaders must be mobilised and equipped to respond to FGM/C