



Government of Iceland
Ministry for Foreign Affairs

Smart Solutions for a Safer Future: Using AI to End FGM

An event organized in the framework of the 16 Days of Activism against GBV

Date: 4 December 2025 at 11am

(during the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence)

organized by UNFPA

1. Background

UNFPA and UNICEF have since 2008 successfully collaborated on the Joint Programme on the Elimination of Female Genital Mutilation (FGM), the largest global programme dedicated to ending FGM.

UNFPA projects that the cost of ending FGM in 31 priority countries is 2.4 billion USD, equivalent to 95\$ per case averted. **Unfortunately, the current resources to prevent an estimated 27 million girls from undergoing FGM in the next five years are insufficient to meet the 2030 target.** Alongside the donor community, strategic partners—particularly from the private sector—are key to diversifying funding and driving the development, promotion, and scale-up of innovative, sustainable solutions. **UNFPA's new Strategic Plan highlights the importance of governments, private sector engagement, especially with technology partners, to expand survivor-centered and forward-looking approaches.**

The UNFPA-UNICEF Joint Programme interventions have been guided by years of experience, evidence on what works and innovative solutions. **A 2025 [resolution](#) from the Human Rights Council, sponsored by 97 Member States, emphasized the importance of leveraging technology to accelerate efforts.** The increasing reliance on Artificial Intelligence (AI), and overall on technology, in its applications in data analysis, communication and service delivery, provides opportunities for strengthening FGM elimination efforts. **The application of AI, in this context, is relatively nascent, but it holds significant potential to improve data-driven decision-making, enhance community engagement, counter mis/disinformation on FGM and optimize resource allocation.** It can, however, present new spaces and risks for harm, including disinformation, misinformation and pushback against gender equality at a structural level as well as individual harms, including doxing and cyber harassment. Even where AI and overall technology are deployed for good purposes, it can pose the same risk as tech that is designed to perpetrate harm if it is not designed with safety, security and

privacy at heart. As such, it is essential that all applications comply with the [UNFPA Guidance on Safe and Ethical use of Technology to Address Gender-Based Violence \(GBV\) and Harmful Practices \(HPs\)](#) and the accompanying [Assessment Checklist](#), to prevent harm and maximize the potential of technology.

The Government of Iceland stands as a committed advocate for the elimination of female genital mutilation (FGM) and the advancement of gender equality worldwide, actively supporting global efforts to achieve SDG 5.3 by 2030. Iceland is a steadfast supporter of the UNFPA FGM Joint Programme through flexible, multi-year funding, which strengthens long-term prevention and protection initiatives across high-prevalence countries. In addition, Iceland provides bilateral support to Sierra Leone to safeguard women and girls at risk and to reinforce national systems and community-led action. Through its principled foreign policy, strong human rights leadership, and consistent backing of UN and international resolutions on ending FGM, Iceland continues to play a vital role in promoting the rights, dignity, and well-being of women and girls everywhere.

Burkina Faso stands as a leading advocate for the elimination of female genital mutilation (FGM) in Africa and actively champions the fulfillment of SDG 5.3 by 2030. The country was among the first to criminalize FGM and continues to invest in community-based prevention, survivor support, and strong legal enforcement. It plays an influential role in advancing regional and global commitments, including as a signatory and consistent supporter of UN and African Union resolutions calling for the elimination of FGM. Through close collaboration with civil society, traditional and religious leaders, and international partners, Burkina Faso remains deeply committed to protecting the rights, health, and dignity of women and girls.

This event, co hosted by the Government of Iceland and the Government of Burkina Faso, will explore the intersection of Artificial Intelligence and FGM and will provide a platform for advocacy and increase uptake and innovation in supporting rights-based technology to accelerate work to end FGM. UNFPA will initiate this important discussion to mark the 16 days of activism against Gender Based Violence aligned with this year's theme **“UNiTE to End Digital Violence against All Women and Girls”**. **The campaign calls on governments, tech companies and donors to take action to harness and secure safe and transparent use of new technologies.**

2. Objective

UNFPA, the convening and administrative agent of the UNFPA-UNICEF Joint Programme on the Elimination of Female Genital Mutilation, will convene stakeholders

to discuss challenges and opportunities of increased uptake of AI to end FGM. Specifically, the side event aims to:

- **Discuss** how AI, and overall the technology, can be a tool for change and serve to prevent FGM and identify solutions to eliminating FGM, on the basis of promising practices.
- **Present the UN's role and expertise** in exploring and applying technological advances, especially AI, to optimize planning and programmatic activities and to deliver results for eliminating FGM by 2030.
- **Ensure rights-based processes for design and deployment**, as a critical harm mitigation strategy.
- **Emphasize the importance of diverse partnerships:** Demonstrate how actions and commitments by various partners, including strategic partners, play a crucial role in contributing to the elimination of FGM.
- **Advocacy for Action:** Raise awareness among key stakeholders, garner commitment to the objective of the Joint Programme and Sustainable Development Goals to eliminate FGM by 2030, and foster new partnerships across the FGM, private sector, and digital rights communities to support initiatives that strategically leverage technology, including AI, for the elimination of FGM.