

ANNUAL REPORT

2023 - 2024



ORCHID  PROJECT

WORKING TOGETHER TO END
FEMALE GENITAL CUTTING

WE NEED TO ACT, AND FAST!



DELPHINE RIVE, CO-CHAIR

JOSEPH SSENTONGO, CO-CHAIR

Dear Supporters,

4.3 million girls are at risk of female genital mutilation/cutting this year, adding to the 230 million women and girls globally who have undergone FGM/C. Tragically, FGM/C claims the lives of approximately 44,320 girls each year. That's one girl every 12 minutes.

These figures, shocking as they are, underestimate the true scale of the problem, as data from many countries where the practice is widespread, is scarce or unavailable. These numbers underscore that FGM/C is not merely a harmful cultural practice, but a threat to girls' lives, contributing to a global child mortality crisis.

This reality demands urgent action, yet the funding available to tackle this issue falls significantly short. From 2022 to 2030, UNFPA estimates that 31 countries with the highest prevalence of FGM/C will need to spend an additional \$2.75 billion to end it, with only \$300 million available.

This is a significant funding gap, and it requires collaboration from all those with the power to make a difference.

Despite limited funding and the urgent need for more rapid action, there is hope. There have been important milestones that inspire optimism. One such victory was the unwavering determination of civil society in The Gambia and globally, which successfully defended the ban on FGM/C, preventing a dangerous reversal. Another example is Galmudug State of Somalia becoming the first Federal Member State in Somalia to pass legislation outlawing all forms of FGM/C.

In addition to our work in collective efforts, we have also personally made significant impact in our journey to end FGM/C. After three years of supporting capacity strengthening and fostering collaboration among 16 NGOs across Africa, we helped them transform their ambitions into action with the launch of the End FGM/C Network Africa. This marks a significant milestone in uniting efforts across the continent to end

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FGM/C. We also launched our first ever research on Asia, a report focusing on Malaysia, marking the beginning of our focus on the region. Until recently, very little research was available on FGM/C in Asia, and this new information allows us to inform future advocacy and policy efforts.

With greater funding and collaboration we can build on these successes to prevent FGM/C and end the terrible physical and psychological harm it causes, as well as the unnecessary loss of life. We thank our donors for their continued support and our partners for their commitment to ending this practice. We look forward to continuing this journey with you.

In solidarity with the global movement to end FGM/C,

Delphine & Joseph

Delphine and Joseph



DONATE

Without your support we cannot make our plans to end FGM/C a reality.

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



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OUR VISION & MISSION



OUR VISION

A world free from female genital mutilation/cutting.



OUR MISSION

To catalyse the movement to end FGM/C by generating and sharing knowledge, enabling collaboration and uniting actors to influence global commitments.



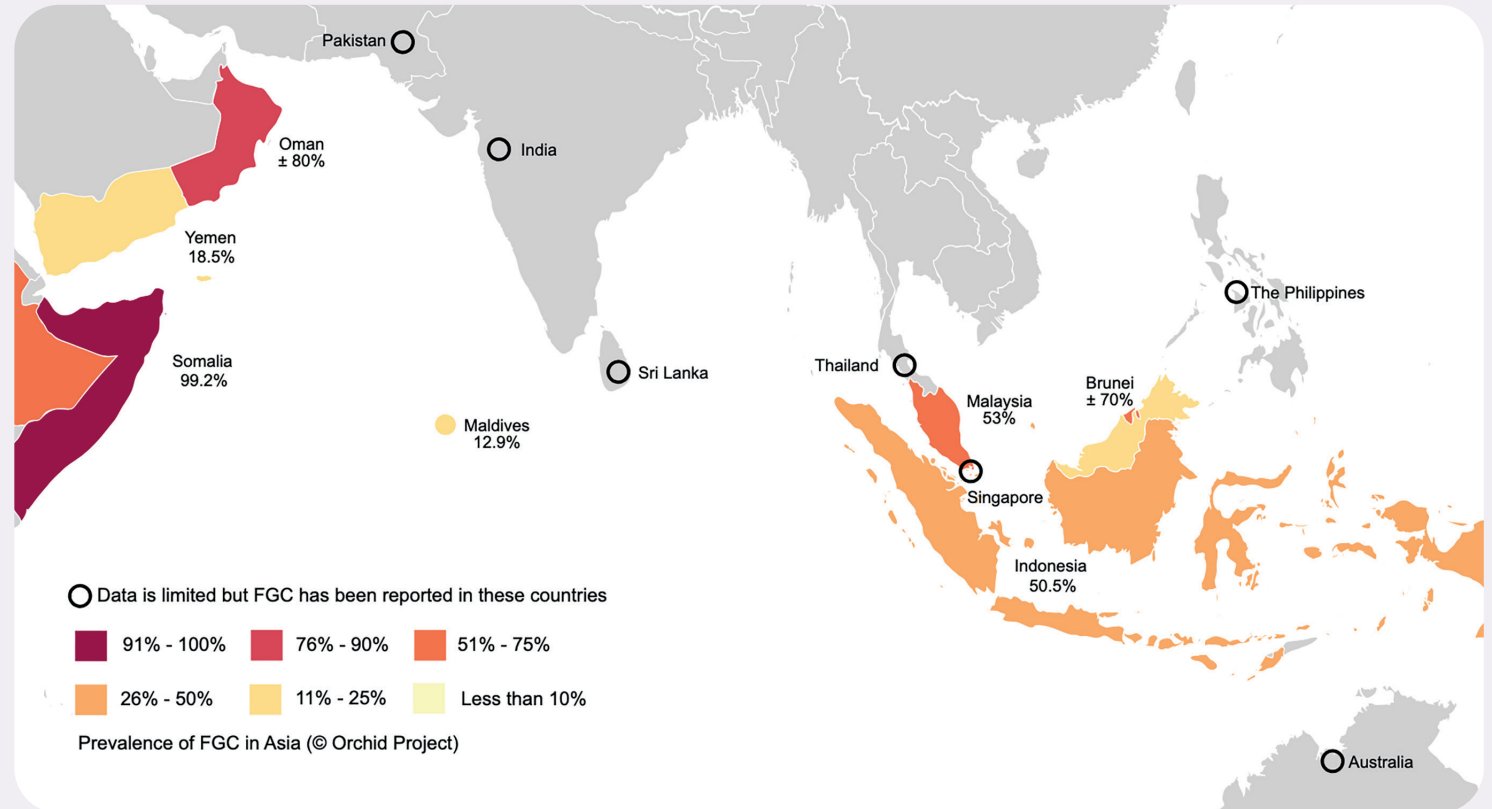
RESEARCH

WHY RESEARCH

Those working to end FGM/C need access to good-quality research and evidence of the practice's scale, distribution and underlying drivers. Policy-makers, donors and grassroots actors also require contextual analysis and evidence of what works to guide their investments and policy designs. Our research strategy seeks to close key knowledge gaps where data and evidence have not been gathered and where available knowledge is hidden in inaccessible data repositories.

WHAT RESEARCH

Many consider FGM/C as an African challenge. In fact the practice is acknowledged as a global concern and has been documented in over 90 countries. This year our research focused on FGM/C in Asia where it is practiced in at least ten countries with over 80-million women and girls affected across the region. Prevalence rates are highest in Indonesia (50.5%) and Malaysia (53%). Working with our partners in the Asia Network to End FGM/C, we published a full Country Profile for Malaysia as well as Short Reports for eight other countries (Brunei, India, Maldives, Pakistan, Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka, and Thailand). We are also currently working on a full Country Profile for Indonesia and are collaborating with global law firm A&O Shearman to develop Law Reports documenting legislative frameworks relevant to FGM/C for all ten Asian countries of focus.



RESEARCH IMPACT

Our research is used as a key reference by UN agencies, national governments, local and international organisations, activists, journalists and academics. Our material is directly linked to by these agencies over 3,500 times from official websites. Our work has been cited over 800 times in academic literature published since 2020.

CAPACITY STRENGTHENING

WHY CAPACITY STRENGTHENING

There is a well-documented and recognised need to build an evidence base for what works in addressing FGM/C and to design programmes that are informed by clear context assessments based on established theories of behaviour change. Furthermore, it is acknowledged that organisations require capacity strengthening for evidence-based programme design if they are to: develop programmes that are rooted in context and theory; effectively evaluate programme impact; and document what works and what doesn't. This aligns with the Orchid Project strategy which brings together research and programming in its focus on strengthening grassroots capacity for greater impact.

We wrapped up our project with the Network Against FGC in Somaliland aimed at scaling up efforts for the government to approve an anti-FGM/C policy. The clash between religious perspectives and human rights standards highlighted the need for dialogue and collaboration to navigate these challenges effectively. Following a consultative process the partner drafted and submitted an anti-FGM/C policy to the government for approval. This collaborative approach has significantly advanced legislative approval and societal change regarding FGM/C in Somaliland. Legislative bodies have rallied behind the approval of the anti-FGM/C policy, marking a crucial step in criminalising FGM/C and protecting the well-being of girls.

Collaborative endeavours, such as consultative meetings and training sessions, have empowered grassroots organisations to advocate effectively, enhance coordination, and amplify their voices in policy engagements. Moreover, national consultations and media debates have bolstered public awareness and support for the anti-FGM/C Policy.



ORCHID PROJECT'S IMPACT THROUGH KNOWLEDGE-SHARING WORKSHOPS

In 2023, Orchid Project conducted an impact assessment of its Knowledge Sharing Workshops (KSWs), revealing significant strides in the global fight against FGM/C. Held in different countries since its inception, including Kenya, Tanzania, and Sierra Leone, these capacity strengthening workshops, focusing on topics from community engagement to gender transformative approaches, brought together over 160 participants from 70+ organisations. The assessment highlighted how the application of the UNICEF Six Elements of Abandonment and a focus on FGM/C as a social and gender norm, led to deeper understanding and more effective interventions. Strengthened networks, enhanced facilitation skills, and empowered organisations has led to increased engagement from men and youth, elevated girls' voices, and greater openness in discussing and reporting FGM/C cases. These findings underscore the importance of continuing to innovate and build capacity through our KSWs, ensuring that the global movement to end FGM/C continues to gain momentum.

“160 participants from 70+ organisations”

KSW FOR YOUTH ANTI-FGM NETWORK KENYA

Over the past two years Lef-Pillon Trust has supported Orchid Project to focus on youth through Knowledge Sharing Workshops and grassroots campaigns. Orchid Project organised with the Youth Anti-FGM Network Kenya (YANK) for a series of KSWs targeting under 25-year-olds from 22 FGM/C hotspot counties for the first time ever. The workshops focussed on empowering young people to lead effective campaigns against FGM/C, emphasising the power of social media, communication strategies and gender transformative approaches.

IMPACT STORY



IMPACT STORY

Meet Fatuma, a dedicated Champion, working to end FGM/C

“I have always sought opportunities to broaden my understanding and enhance my advocacy efforts [to end FGM/C]. The recent knowledge-sharing workshops were a pivotal moment in my journey, providing me with invaluable insights and tools that have significantly enriched my work. The [Orchid Project] workshop[s] brought together a diverse group of advocates, each with unique experiences and perspectives. This diversity was a powerful reminder of the global nature of our struggle against FGM/C, reinforcing the idea that collective action is essential for meaningful change.”

During these workshops, survivors and advocates shared their personal stories, the work within their communities and issues that they face in their work to end FGM/C. This experience brought everyone together and allowed the youth in attendance to feel united and to inspire each other. We believe that investing in, and involving, youth in efforts to end this practice are essential. “Hearing personal stories from survivors and fellow advocates deepened my understanding of the emotional and psychological impact of FGM/C, inspiring me to incorporate more personal narratives into my awareness campaigns.”

Fatuma shared that the workshops, “equipped me with new skills, strengthened my resolve, and connected me with a network of like-minded individuals who share my commitment to ending FGM/C. I am confident that the lessons learned will continue to guide my effort as I work towards a future free from FGM/C.”

ADVOCACY & POLICY

WHY ADVOCACY

Advocacy work is crucial to ending FGM/C. Inclusion of Target 5.2.3 to end FGM/C under the Sustainable Development Goals in 2015 was a tremendous outcome of advocacy work and heralded a new era of action to end FGM/C. However, the ambition was not matched with adequate political and financial commitment; with the deadline of SDGs fast approaching, we are nowhere near elimination of FGM/C globally. Therefore Orchid Project's objective of influencing global and regional policies, actions and funding to end FGM/C is more critical than ever.

Through advocacy we work to unify efforts, strengthen movements and run campaigns. These aim to apply pressure on key stakeholders to prioritise ending FGM/C on global and regional agendas and to enforce laws and allocate resources. In our advocacy efforts we also work to support youth activists and amplify voices of survivors, bringing their stories to the forefront and driving international commitment to protect the rights and wellbeing of all girls and women.

LAUNCH OF AFRICA NETWORK AT AFRICAN UNION CONFERENCE IN TANZANIA

The End FGM/C Network Africa was officially launched on 10th October 2023 during the 2nd African Union International Conference on FGM.

The Network is an African-led initiative seeking to fill a critical gap: providing a platform for a united voice to influence decision-makers at all levels and to drive coordinated advocacy targeted towards ending FGM/C in Africa. Currently, Orchid Project supports the establishment and operationalisation of the network as the Interim Secretariat.

“

Being part of the End FGM/C Network Africa as a co-host has been a transformative experience. Having the Network fully established is a crucial step towards a unified and sustained effort in the fight against FGM/C and gender-based violence across Africa. This Network signifies hope for a future where girls and women are empowered to claim their rights and thrive in safe, supportive environments.”

Boukary Maman - NGO Universal Education (Niger)

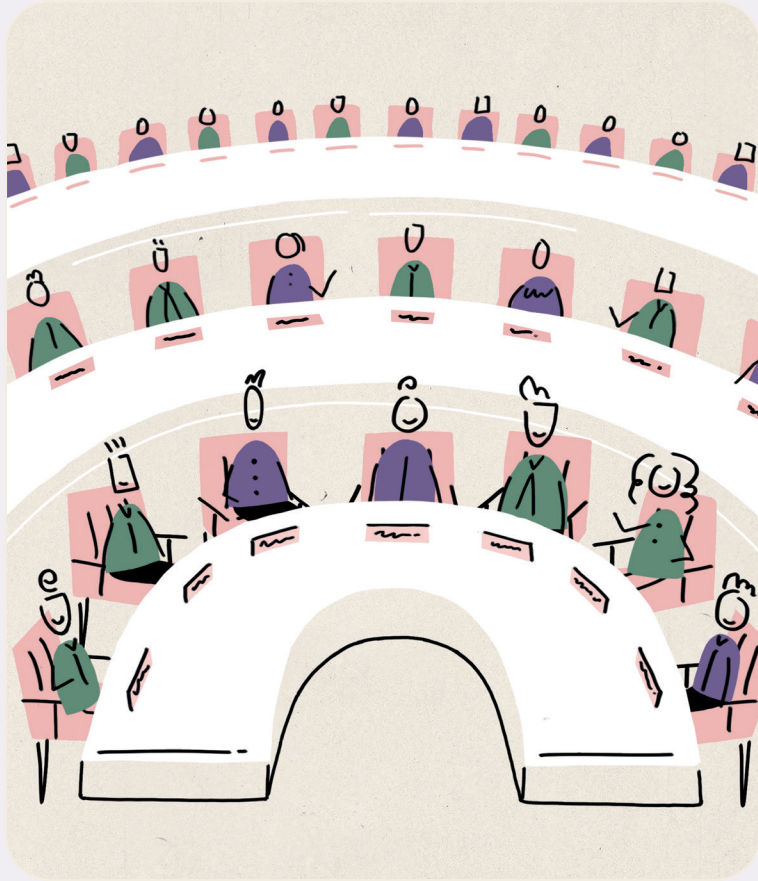


“

Watching the End FGM/C Network Africa transform from a vision into reality has been nothing short of a dream fulfilled. This journey, from fragmented voices to a unified force, highlights the extraordinary impact of collective action and steadfast commitment. Orchid Project's bold investment was instrumental, lighting the way for regional unity and progress. As a founding member and co-host, I am deeply honoured and proud to see the network thrive. Its success represents a monumental achievement in our shared mission to protect and empower women and girls across Africa.”

Jacqueline C. Samuels - Covenant Foundation for Girls (Liberia)

FUNDING CAMPAIGN



To further our work around the funding gap to end FGM/C and to follow up on the Kigali Declaration on closing the Funding Gap, Orchid Project launched a campaign called #TakeASeatForTheSummit.

This was designed to show support for the Global Commitment Summit as a mechanism to bring the necessary commitments to help end FGM/C.

Our first campaign video asked activists, members of the public, donors and people from all walks of life to take a seat, to show their support for people with resources

who would take a seat at the Global Commitment Summit. This is something that we'd called for as part of the Kigali Declaration, which we launched as part of the Global Platform for Action to end FGM/C during the Women Deliver pre-conference 2023.

Responses rolled in, from global partners, to donors, grassroots organisations and the general public. The video was played over 183,000 times across our social media platforms, spreading the call for a Global Commitment Summit far and wide. The sharing of images of people taking a seat



showed unity and support for the Global Commitment Summit as one of the mechanisms to close the funding gap.

We wrapped up the campaign with a second video, asking donors to #HelpSetUpTheSummit. To make this summit happen, we need commitment from donors and governments to hold this meeting. With 2030 fast approaching, financial commitments to help end this practice are needed now more than ever. We thank our current donors and all participants in our campaign. Awareness and solidarity around our call is fundamental in making the Global Commitment Summit a reality.

#HELP SET UP THE SUMMIT

COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN



As usual, alongside thousands of other feminist organisations, we attended the 68th annual session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) in New York. Orchid Project organised and supported three key events at the Conference, and they were among only the handful of events that were focused on FGM/C, underlining the importance of Orchid Project's presence in those spaces to keep FGM/C on the global agenda.

1. A high-level side event on financing the elimination of FGM/C was co-organised under the umbrella of the The Girl Generation: Support to the Africa-led Movement to end FGM/C programme featuring collaboration with multiple governments, UN agencies, and frontline activists.

2. A parallel event, co-hosted with the Global Platform for Action to End FGM/C and the US Mission to the UN, focused on closing the funding gap and included participation from the US and Canadian governments, donors, UN

entities and civil society. Adding a creative dimension, we featured a powerful creative contribution by artist Sophie Wallace and an interactive quiz hosted by Natasha Johnson, Executive Director of Globalising Gender.

3. A virtual event co-hosted with the Asia Network, emphasised the urgency of addressing FGM/C – and in particular the data gap – in Asia and shared our new report on Malaysia.

The essential common thread across all three events was their organisation in partnership with a coalition of NGOs, underscoring the importance of collective efforts to amplify and strengthen the global action to end FGM/C.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

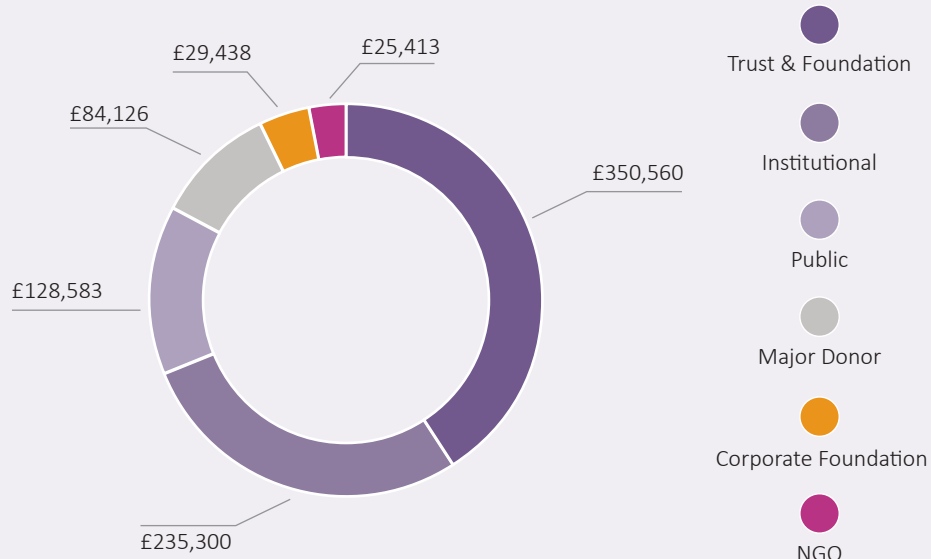
We would like to give a special thanks to our funders, without their support, our work would not be possible:

FCDO through Options	Foundation for a Just Society International	Zielke Philanthropies
Boda Charitable Star Trust (Alexandria Bancorp)	Good Loop (Canesten-Bayer)	MannionDaniels
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Lauritzen Fonden	Maggie Gallagher	Cerē
	Those who wish to remain anonymous.	

FINANCIALS (APR 2023 - MAR 2024)

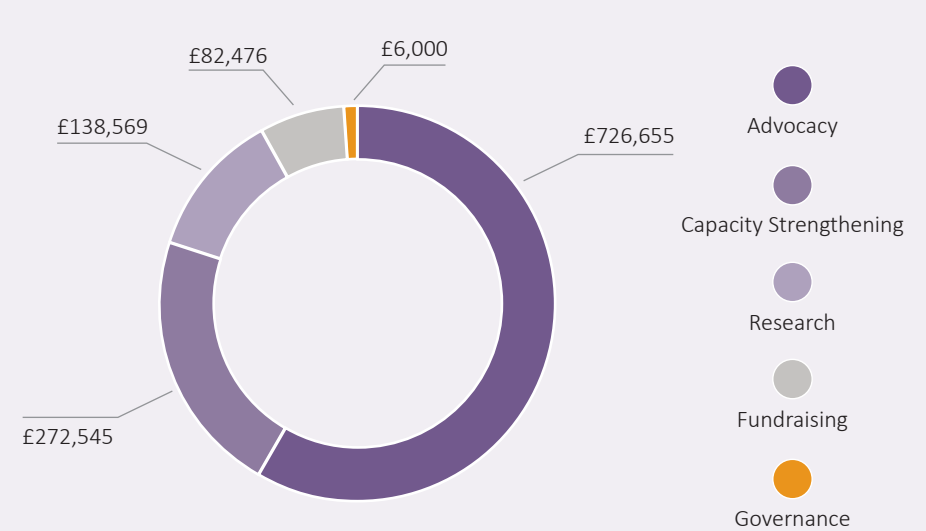
INCOME

Trust & Foundation	£350,560
Institutional	£235,300
Public	£128,583
Major Donor	£84,126
Corporate Foundation	£29,438
NGO	£25,413
Total	£853,420



EXPENDITURE

Advocacy	£726,655
Capacity Strengthening	£272,545
Research	£138,569
Fundraising	£82,476
Governance	£6,000
Total Expenditure	£1,226,245



Note: the deficit was covered from unrestricted reserves.

Here's how you can help



DONATE

Without your support we cannot make our plans to end FGM/C a reality. Please visit : orchidproject.org/donate or scan the QR to make a gift.



ADVOCATE

ADVOCATE FOR A GLOBAL END TO FGM/C

Lend your voice, tell your friends and be an active supporter! Visit orchidproject.org to find out more.



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