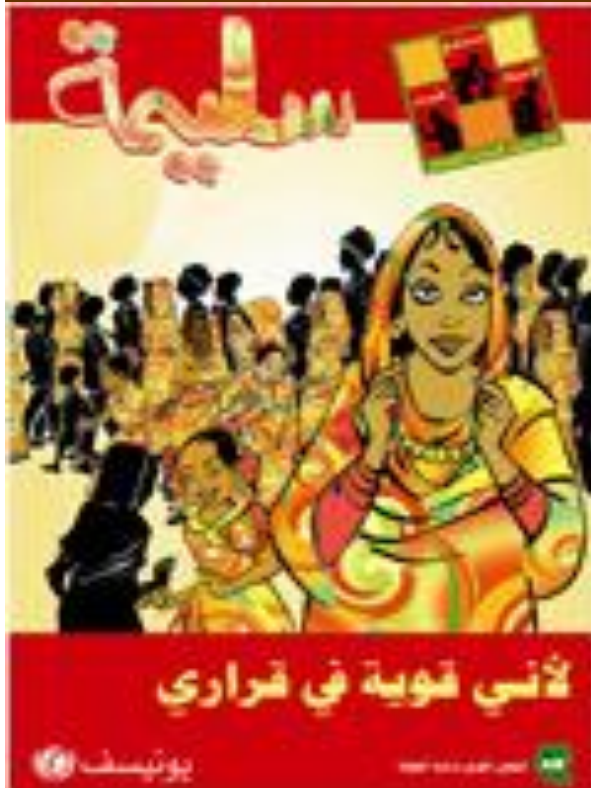


Ending FGM/C through Evidence Based Advocacy in Sudan



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Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting (FGM/C): A Worldwide Problem

- ❑ Worldwide 3 million girls are at risk of undergoing FGM/C
- ❑ 140 million girls & women are currently living with its consequences.
- ❑ Practiced on young girls between few days old to 15 years of age.
- ❑ In Africa 92 million girls 10 years old & above have undergone FGM/C
- ❑ FGM/C is practiced in 28 African countries, South East Asia, & the Middle East (including Sudan, Egypt, Somalia & Yemen)
- ❑ FGM/C also found in Europe, Canada, USA and Australia among migrants from Africa, Middle East and South East Asia.

Outline

- Overview on FGM/C practice in Sudan
- Advocacy efforts in Sudan
- Evolution of National Surveys in response
- How National & states bodies used existing evidence to influence laws at national and states level.

What is FGM/C

- Defined by WHO as 'procedures involving partial or total removal of the external female genitalia or other injury to the female genital organs whether for cultural, religious or other non-therapeutic reasons'

Classified as follows;

- Type I - Clitoridectomy
- Type II – Excision
- Type III – Infibulation
- Type IV – other harmful procedures

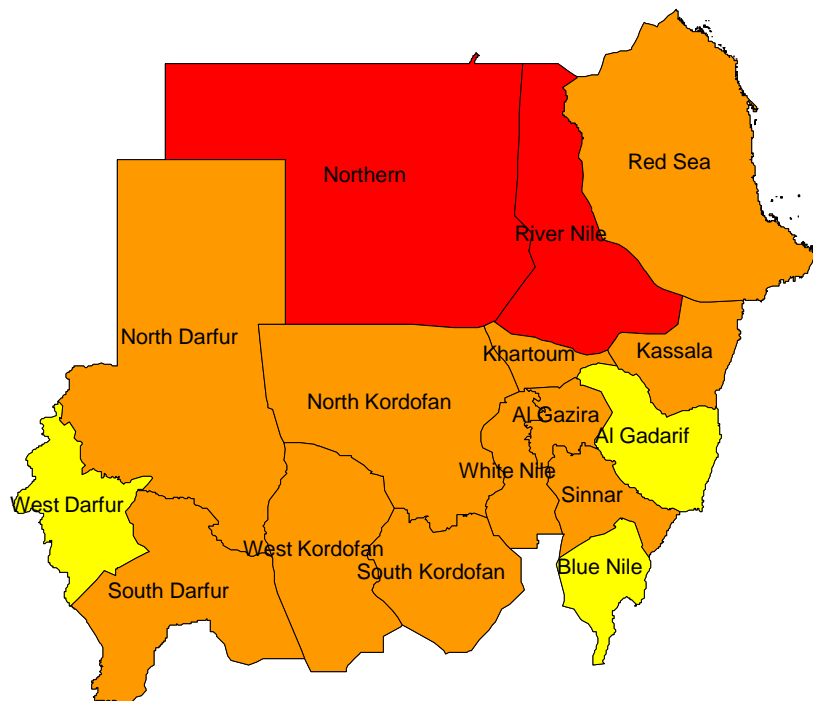
International Frameworks Recognize Harmful Effect of FGM/C

- ICPD PoA 1994
- FWCW 1995
- CRC 1990
- CEDAW
- UNFPA & UNICEF Joint Programme to accelerate change for abandonment of FGM/C

Evidence of Harmful Effects

- Many Negative Developmental & Human Rights Aspects of the Practice of FGM/C
- Fundamental violation of the rights of females
- Consequences vary according to the type & severity of the procedure
- Leads to immediate & longer-term physical, psychological, psychosexual & social problems

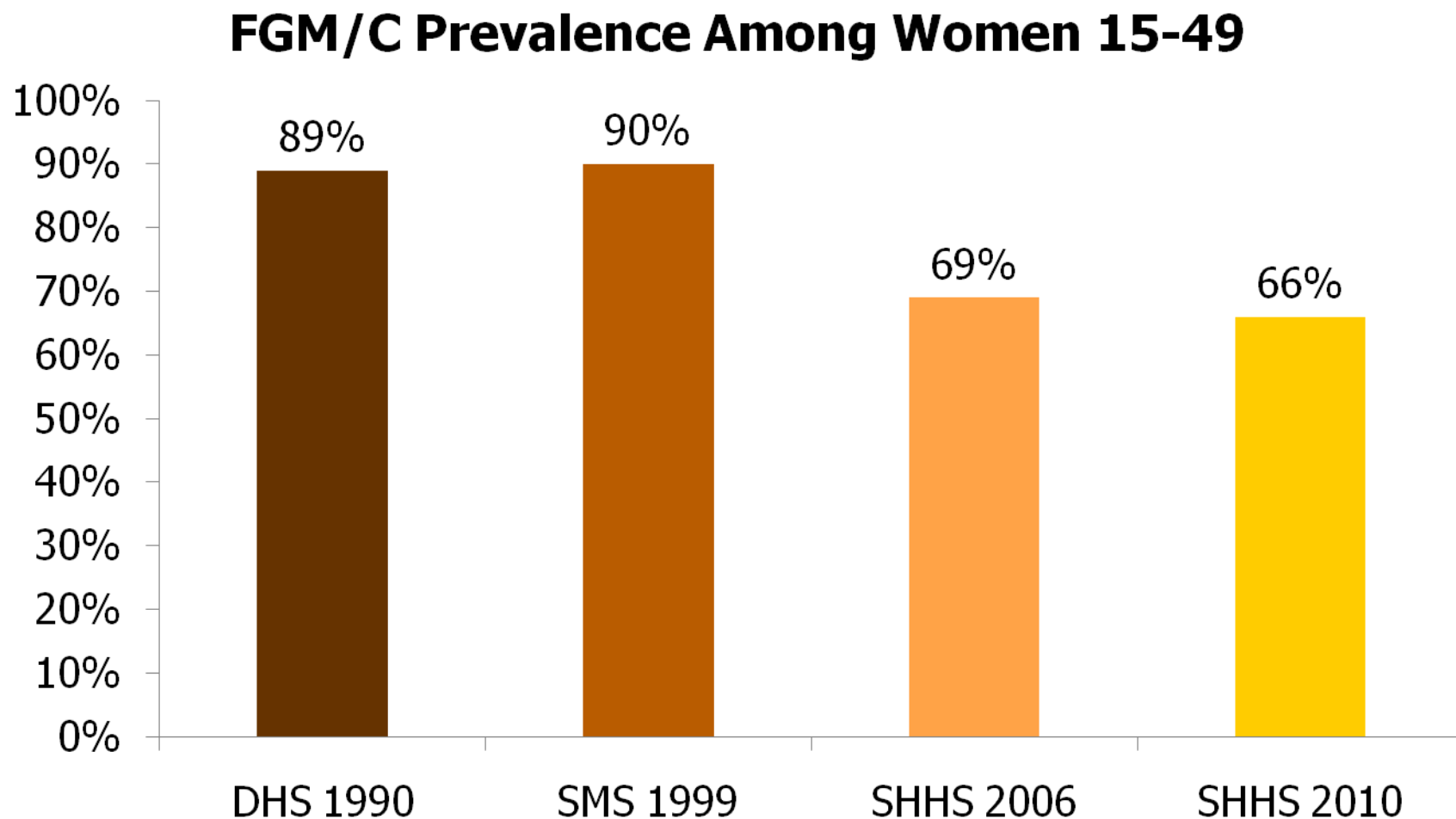
FGM/C in Sudan: Estimated Women Undergone FGM/C (%) (SHHS 2010)



	Percentage	
Low	20 - 39	
Medium	40 - 59	
High	60 - 79	
Highest	80 & more	

Source: FMOH & CBS (2010) Sudan National Household Health Survey Report

Change in FGM Prevalence 1990 – 2010 in Sudan



Debatable Figures shaping questions in Surveys on Types of FGM/C

- ❑ Figures on types of FGM practiced can be **debatable.**
- ❑ Evidence shown disparity between types claimed and reality
- ❑ This led to change in question on Type of FGM/C from focusing on Type III to any form of FGM/C

The Campaign in Sudan



- ❑ Legislation in early **1940s** banning FGM
- ❑ Community awareness efforts since in the **1970s**
- ❑ **FMOH National Plan of Action** in **2001** & RH Strategy
- ❑ An FGM Abandonment **Strategy & Law** drafted by National Council for Child Welfare
- ❑ Saleema (Intact) Campaign

The Campaign in Sudan: moving from Awareness to Legislations

- A steering committee at federal level including government departments, networks of NGOs & academia
- Councils and steering committees for FGM/C at state levels
- Campaigns at community level with wider scope of activities including;
 - Advocacy for a law & penalties for circumcisers
 - Awareness raising of key decision makers
 - Capacity building of advocacy groups
 - Research
 - Integrated projects including advocacy at local level

Advocacy & Policy: Involving Key Decision Makers through Evidence

- Involving men, Governors & local legislators in campaign
- Medical council statement against FGM/C
- Chapter 13 in Child Act
- A national law outlawing FGM/C in effect
- Inclusion in other policies
- States laws & legislations

Using Statistics to Shape Strategies: Case of National Strategy

The National Strategy for the Abandonment of all types of FGM/C (2208-2018):

- Review of existing policies, legal frameworks at all levels
- Review of existing studies & surveys
- Prioritized areas became Strategy Components
- Statistics used to develop indicators & targets for 2018
- The strategy was endorsed in 2008 & same pattern was used for drafting National Child Act

Existing Research & Gaps

- National Surveys
- Few Small scale in-depth studies sometimes linked to interventions
- Hospital based studies
- Focus on perceptions of different groups e.g. men, youth, health providers
- Gaps in in-depth psycho-sexual focused research
- Need for in depth understanding of decision making process: tipping point

Engendering FGM/C Data & Statistics

- Understand the socio-cultural & psychological context of decision making
- Impact of FGM/C practice on social inclusion for girls & link to positive messaging campaigns like *Saleema one*
- How non-practicing families are ensuring gender equality, empowerment & social inclusion of their uncut daughters



Towards a Sudan free from FGM ..