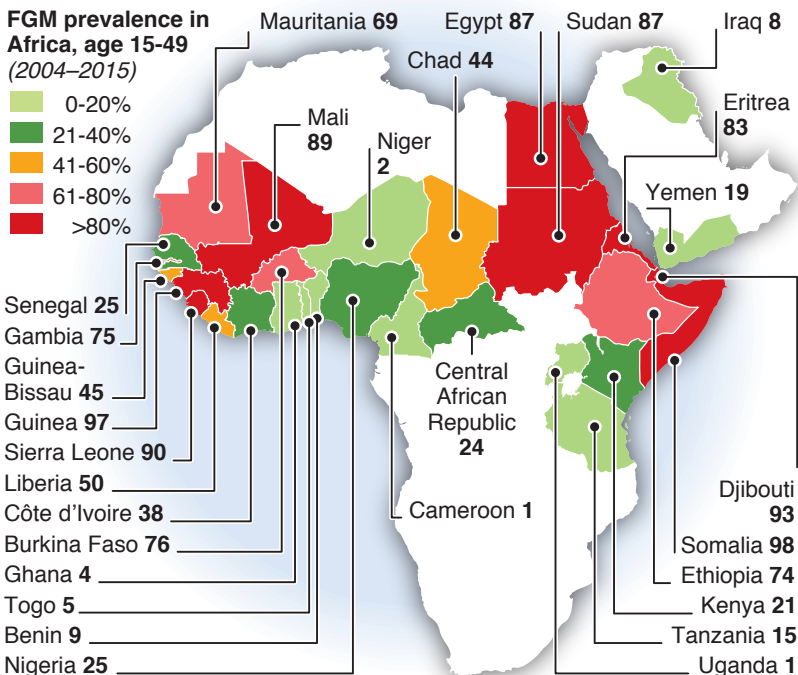
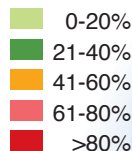


Drive to eradicate female genital mutilation

A global drive is underway to eradicate female genital mutilation (FGM), within a generation. The custom is commonly associated with Africa but is also prevalent in a number of countries in Asia and the Middle East

FGM prevalence in Africa, age 15-49 (2004-2015)



FGM FACTS

Worldwide, it is estimated that at least 200 million girls and women alive today — including 44 million girls 14 and younger — have undergone some form of FGM. Campaigners say figure is underestimate

FGM is prevalent in 27 African countries, Yemen, Indonesia, and parts of Iraq, and exists elsewhere in Asia and Middle East.

Rooted in wish to control female sexuality but practices vary greatly. Religion, tradition, hygiene among reasons given

Usually involves total or partial removal of external genitalia, including clitoris. Most severe form — infibulation — involves stitching of vaginal opening

