



WE ARE CALLING FOR A GLOBAL FGM INDICATOR IN THE SDGS

TAKE ACTION

What are the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)? Why are they important?

The SDGs are a universal set of goals, targets, and indicators that UN member states will be expected to use to frame their policies and agendas over the next 15 years. **Building on the Millennium Development Goals, the aim of these goals is to achieve three extraordinary things by 2030: End extreme poverty, fight inequality and injustice, and fix climate change.**

The final SDGs agreement is expected to be formally adopted at a UN summit in New York on 25 to 27 September, 2015. After this summit, the work to finalise the indicators (what will be measured and funded) will continue until March 2016, when the indicators are formally adopted. **Now is a crucial time for advocates to lobby their member states with regard to what indicators are included in the SDGs.**

What is the status of FGM in the SDG's now?

There are 17 proposed goals in the SDGs, each with specific targets. We applaud the inclusion of child, early and forced marriage (CEFM) and FGM under target 5.3.

Goal 5 is to “Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls.”

Target 5.3 is to “Eliminate all harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilations”.

So what is The Girl Generation asking for?

We are calling for the inclusion of a *global* FGM indicator under target 5.3.

As of now, the proposed indicators under target 5.3 are:

40. Percentage of women aged 20-24 who were married or in a union before age 18
41. Percentage of girls and women aged 15-49 years who have undergone FGM/C

Many member states believe there are too many indicators in the running for the SDGs, and there is currently a move towards reducing the total number of indicators – so it’s important that we raise our voices and make the case for why it’s so important to ensure that FGM remains a priority in the indicator list. According to the most recent “Proposed Priority Indicator List”, **FGM is included in Target 5.3, but the FGM indicator is only “for relevant countries.”** The child marriage indicator does not include this caveat.

The Girl Generation welcomes the inclusion of a global child marriage indicator under target 5.3, as CEFM and FGM share many of the same root causes and social drivers. **We believe that it is equally important to include a global FGM indicator. The phrase “for relevant countries” does not account for the**

countries where FGM is not currently measured, as well as the many countries with diaspora populations from FGM practicing communities. This ignores and excludes countless women and girls around the world affected by FGM. Only a global FGM indicator, alongside a global CEFM indicator, will be able to provide a comprehensive framework for addressing both issues. The mechanism for measuring FGM and CEFM is the same; it does not require additional investment to measure both globally. **FGM is a global problem that requires a global solution.**

What can I do?

Your voice is crucial and there are opportunities to be heard! Now is the time to speak up to make sure that FGM is included in the final indicator list. Here are a few ways you can take action:

- **Endorse our SDGs statement** – Together with other international partners, we have developed a clear and concise statement (attached) calling for inclusion of FGM as a global indicator in the SDGs. Your organisation can endorse this statement so that together we can create a louder voice for advocacy. The more endorsements we receive from our members, the stronger our message will be. We will be also be publicising and sharing the endorsed statement with decision-makers closely involved in the process for finalising the indicators.
- **Encourage others to endorse the statement** - Share it widely with your networks. As one way of doing this, we've included some suggested social media posts below, but you can also forward this action pack and statement on via email.
- **Lobby your national delegation** – You can start by identifying who is in charge of developing your country's post-2015 developmental policy, usually someone in the Foreign Ministry and the UN Ambassador. Send a letter, or talk to them about the points raised in the statement, and encourage them to adopt this position. Further guidance on this can be found in the list of resources below.
- **Tweet about it!** You can use the following sample social media posts:
 - #FGM is a global issue that requires a global indicator in the #SDGs. Help us secure FGM's place in the global agenda. #EndFGM
 - #FGM and #ChildMarriage are global problems that require global indicators. Support a GLOBAL indicator for FGM in the #SDGs. #EndFGM
 - Don't exclude countless women and girls. Support a GLOBAL indicator for #FGM in the #SDGs.
 - Hashtags you can use: #EndFGM #SDGs #Post2015

I want to take action. What are some key talking points for lobbying?

You can include the following messages in your lobbying and advocacy work:

- FGM is one of the most serious human rights violations of our time. For too long, it has been neglected on the global agenda, and treated as a taboo subject.
- Ending FGM can be a catalyst for change, going hand-in-hand with other gender equality issues, including child marriage and girls' education.
- No country can achieve its full potential, socially or economically, when half of its population is held back by extreme forms of discrimination.
- FGM is everyone's issue, and each of us can play a role in creating a world that is safe for girls.
- A global indicator on FGM is a vital tool for measuring change in terms of gender equality.

- We call for the indicator: ‘Percentage of girls and women aged 15-49 years who have undergone FGM/C’ to be included as a global indicator under target 5.3, alongside the CEFM indicator, to provide a comprehensive framework for addressing both issues.
- A global indicator for FGM will:
 - Ensure sustained and increased political will and momentum for change
 - Ensure sustained and increased investment towards ending FGM
 - Ensure that governments put in place and implement strategies and action plans to end the practice
 - Ensure improved accountability, providing the growing global movement to end FGM with a credible tool to hold donors, policy makers, and governments to account
 - Ensure that no girls are left behind in the countries where FGM is not currently regularly monitored
- FGM is a global issue that requires a global indicator. FGM is not restricted to the so-called “relevant countries” where prevalence data is already available. FGM has been documented in at least nine practicing countries in Asia, including Indonesia, where 51% of girls have undergone some form of the practice.
 - It is estimated that up to half a million women and girls in the United States have been affected by or are at risk of FGM.
 - In the European Union, it is estimated that half a million women have undergone FGM.
 - An estimated 137,000 women and girls with FGM live in England and Wales, alone.
 - Women and girls in Australia, Canada and other countries with diaspora populations are also affected.

Where can I find out more?

Please visit the following websites and toolkits for more information about the SDGs:

Orchid Project – Sustainable Development Goals and the FGM/C indicator: update August 2015
<http://orchidproject.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/08/SDG-indicator-briefing-150819.pdf>

Girls Not Brides – Post-2015 Advocacy Toolkit

<http://girlsnotbrides.theideabureau.netdna-cdn.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/01/GNB-Pos>

The Guardian – Sustainable Development Goals: all you need to know

<http://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2015/jan/19/sustainable-development-goals-uk>

United Nations Sustainable Development Knowledge Platform

<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/>

The Global Goals for Sustainable Development

<http://www.globalgoals.org/>

The Girl Generation is a social change communications initiative, providing a global platform for galvanizing, catalysing and amplifying the Africa-led global movement to end FGM, building on what has already been achieved. We seek to inspire a collective of organisations and individuals across the most affected countries in Africa, and beyond, to end FGM in one generation.