Appendix 4: International Prevalence of FGM

The exact number of girls and women alive today who have undergone FGM is unknown; however UNICEF estimates that over 2000 million girls and women worldwide have undergone FGM.

FGM is prevalent in 30 countries. It is a deeply rooted practice, widely carried out among specific ethnic populations in Africa and parts of the Middle East and Asia. FGM is concentrated in countries around the Atlantic coast to the Horn of Africa and in areas of the Middle East like Iraq and Yemen. It has also been documented in communities in:

- Colombia
- Indonesia
- Oman
- Saudi Arabia
- India
- Israel
- Pakistan
- The Occupied Palestinian Territories
- Iran
- Malaysia
- The United Arab Emirates

It has also been identified in parts of Europe, North America and Australia.

Percentage of girls and women aged 15-49 who have undergone FGM in Africa, the Middle East, and Indonesia

Notes: In Liberia, girls and women who have heard of the Sande society were asked whether they were members; this provides indirect information on FGM since it is performed during initiation into the society. Data for Indonesia refer to girls aged 0 to 11 years since prevalence data on FGM among girls and women aged 15 to 49 years is not available. UNICEF global databases, 2016, based on DHS, MICS and other nationally representative surveys, 2004-2015.

Source: Multi-agency statutory guidance on female genital mutilation (2016) HM Government