

Appendix 5: Names and Terms used for FGM

FGM is known by a number of names, including female genital cutting, initiation or circumcision. The term female circumcision is unfortunate because it's anatomically incorrect and misleading in terms of the harm FGM can cause. The names 'FGM' or 'cut' are increasingly used at community level, although they are still not always understood by individuals in practicing communities, largely because they are English terms.

During health discussions such as antenatal or well women clinics, women may describe being "open" or "closed". Women may not know or be able to describe the procedure that they have been subject to. Children may not use words for the specific procedure or know how they are described. Children may use words that describe ceremonies that involve cutting but are not able to describe in detail what is meant.

Country	Term used for FGM	Language
Chad – the Ngama Sara subgroup	Bagne	
	Gadja	
Gambia	Niaka	Mandinka
	Kuyango	Mandinka
	Musolula karoola	Mandinka
Guinea-Bissau	Fandu di mindjer	Kriolu
Egypt	Thara	Arabic
	Khitan	Arabic
	Khifad	Arabic
Ethiopia	Megrez	Amharic
	Absum	Harrari
Eritrea	Mekhnishab	Tigreigna
Iran	Xatna	Farsi
Kenya	Kutairi	Swahili
	Kutairi was ichana	Swahili
Nigeria	Ibi/Ugwu	Igbo
	Didabbe fun omobirin/ ila kiko fun omobirin	Yoruba
Sierra Leone	Sunna	Soussou
	Bondo	Temenee
	Bondo/sonde	Mendee
	Bondo	Mendinka
	Bondo	Limba
Somalia	Gudiniin	Somali
	Halalays	Somali
	Qodiin	Somali
Sudan	Khifad	Arabic
	Tahoor	Arabic
Turkey	Kadin sunneti	Turkish

Taken from HM Government (2020) Multi-Agency Statutory Guidance on Female Genital Mutilation

