



## Addressing the health consequences of Female Genital Mutilation in Somalia

Ifrah Ahmed | Global Health Exchange | 12 September 2019

# Presentation Overview



- Introduce Ifrah Foundation
- Briefly look at FGM globally and in Somalia
- Ifrah Foundation Vision and Mission
- Health Consequences of FGM
- Ifrah Foundation's Model of Systemic Change
- Action Plan for Somalia

# Introduce Ifrah Foundation

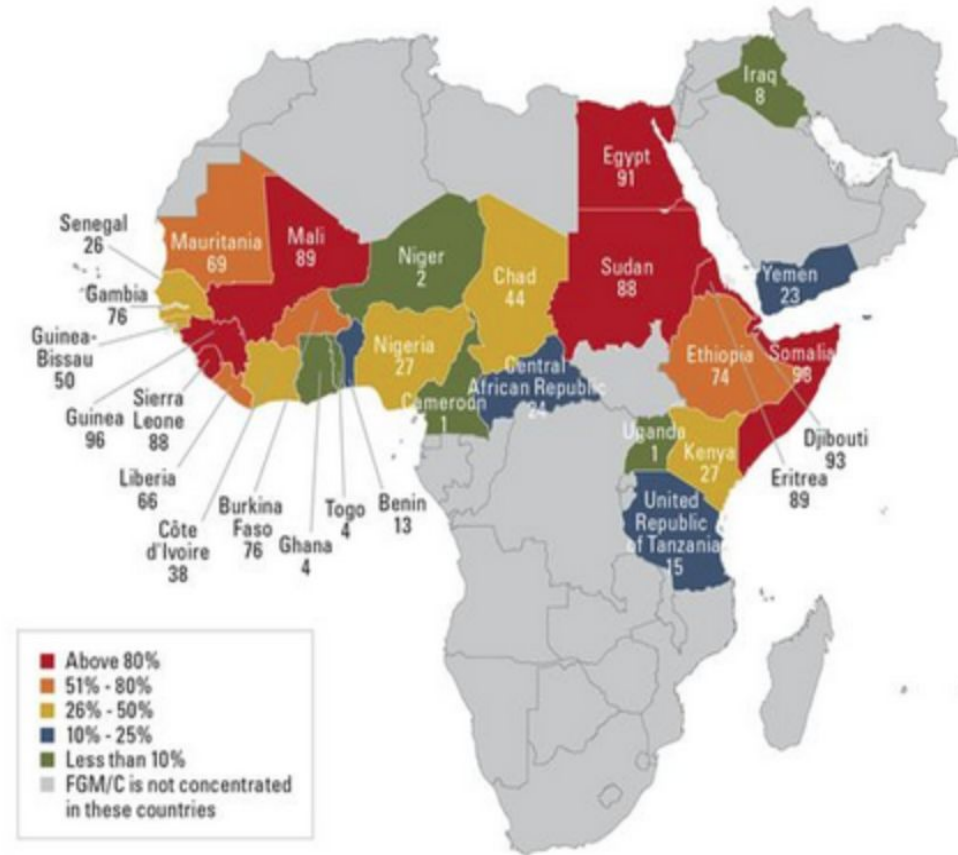


- Ifrah Foundation was founded in 2010.
- Ifrah Foundation is a registered charity in Ireland and in Somalia.
- Ifrah Foundation has been widely recognised for its work campaigning for an end to FGM/C both in Somalia and globally.
- Ifrah is Gender Advisor to the Government of Somalia.

# FGM/C as a global issue



- WHO: 200 million women & girls globally.
- 3 million girls & women at risk annually.
- 8,000 girls per day.
- Somalia highest prevalence at 98%.

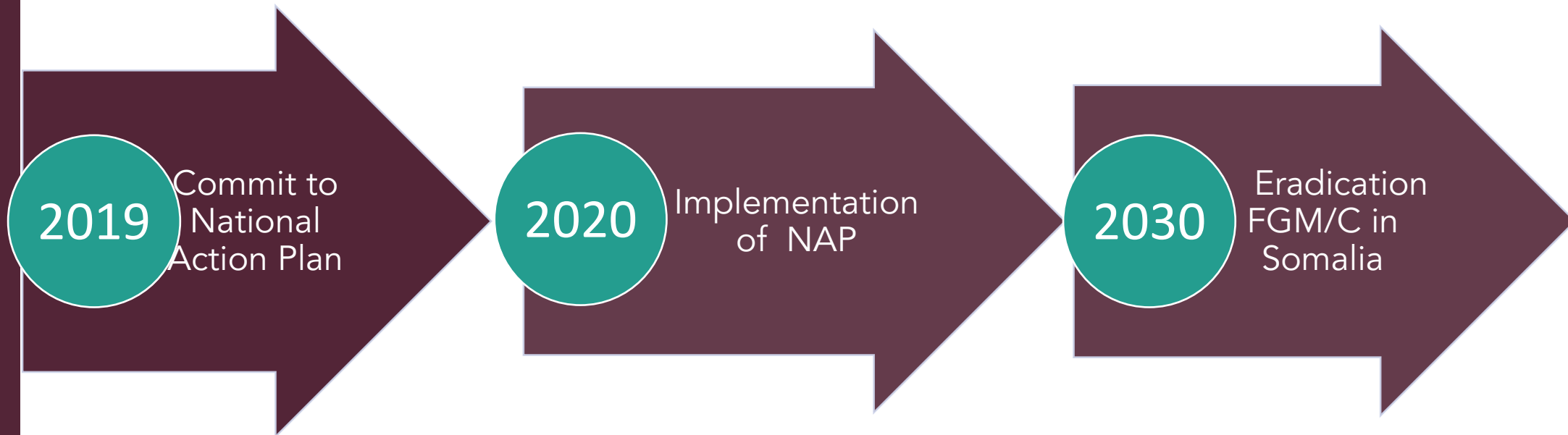




# Mission Statement

To drive the abandonment of  
FGM/C in Somalia by 2030

# Vision of Ifrah Foundation



# Health Consequences of FGM



**Infections:** Genital abscesses (sores filled with pus that must be drained) and infectious diseases such as hepatitis B.

**Mental Health:** Depression, anxiety and trauma. Girls may also experience shock as they may not understand what was done to them or why.

**Fistula:** An opening between the urethra and vagina that lets urine run into the vagina. This can happen when the urethra is damaged during FGM/C. Fistula causes incontinence and other problems, including odours, and can cause girls & women to become social outcasts.

# Health Consequences of FGM



**Sexual Health:** Pain, especially during sex, is caused by extra scar tissue, which is common after type 2 or type 3 procedures.

**Childbirth:** Women may be at risk of longer labour and caesarean section. They are also more at risk for excessive bleeding after childbirth.

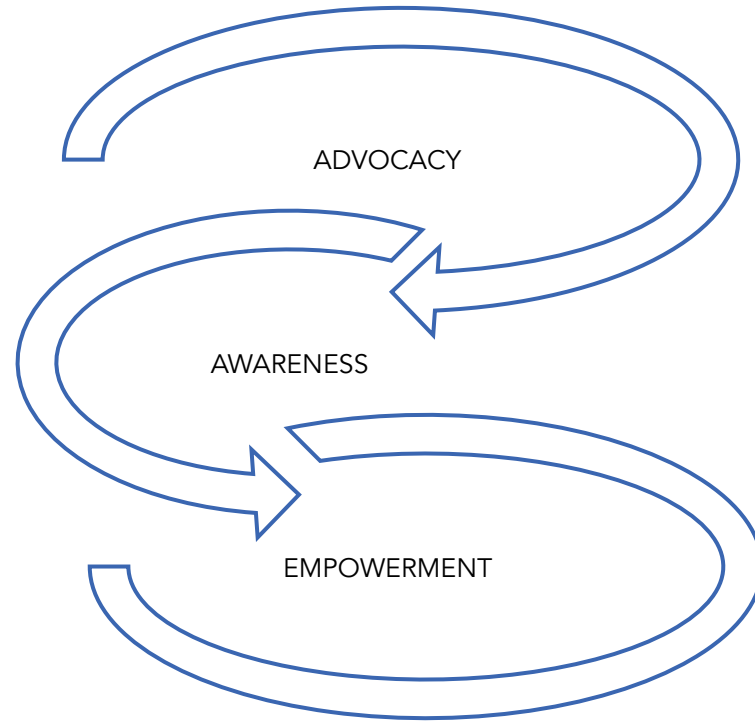
**Urinary + Mensural Issues:** Problems urinating and painful menstrual periods. Some women are left with only a small opening for urinating and menstrual bleeding. They may not be able to pass all of their menstrual blood or urine. This can cause infections, pain, and periods that are longer than normal.



# Ifrah Foundation Model of Change



What can be done to reduce the prevalence of FGM in Somalia?



## Advocacy

- FGM/C Bill, FGM/C Policy, National Action Plan

## Awareness

- Media campaign and training

## Empowerment

- Community Education

# Action Plan for Somalia

- Building on our research & drawing on successful eradication, we developed a National Action Plan (NAP) for the Eradication of FGM in Somalia.
- working closely with the Somali Government & the World Bank to secure financing for the implementation of the NAP;
- Actions broken down by strategic pillar (advocacy, awareness, education) and will be implemented with strategic partners.



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## A NATIONAL ACTION PLAN FOR THE ERADICATION OF FGM/C IN SOMALIA

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### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

IFRAH FOUNDATION

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Thank you!



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