

Female Genital Mutilation

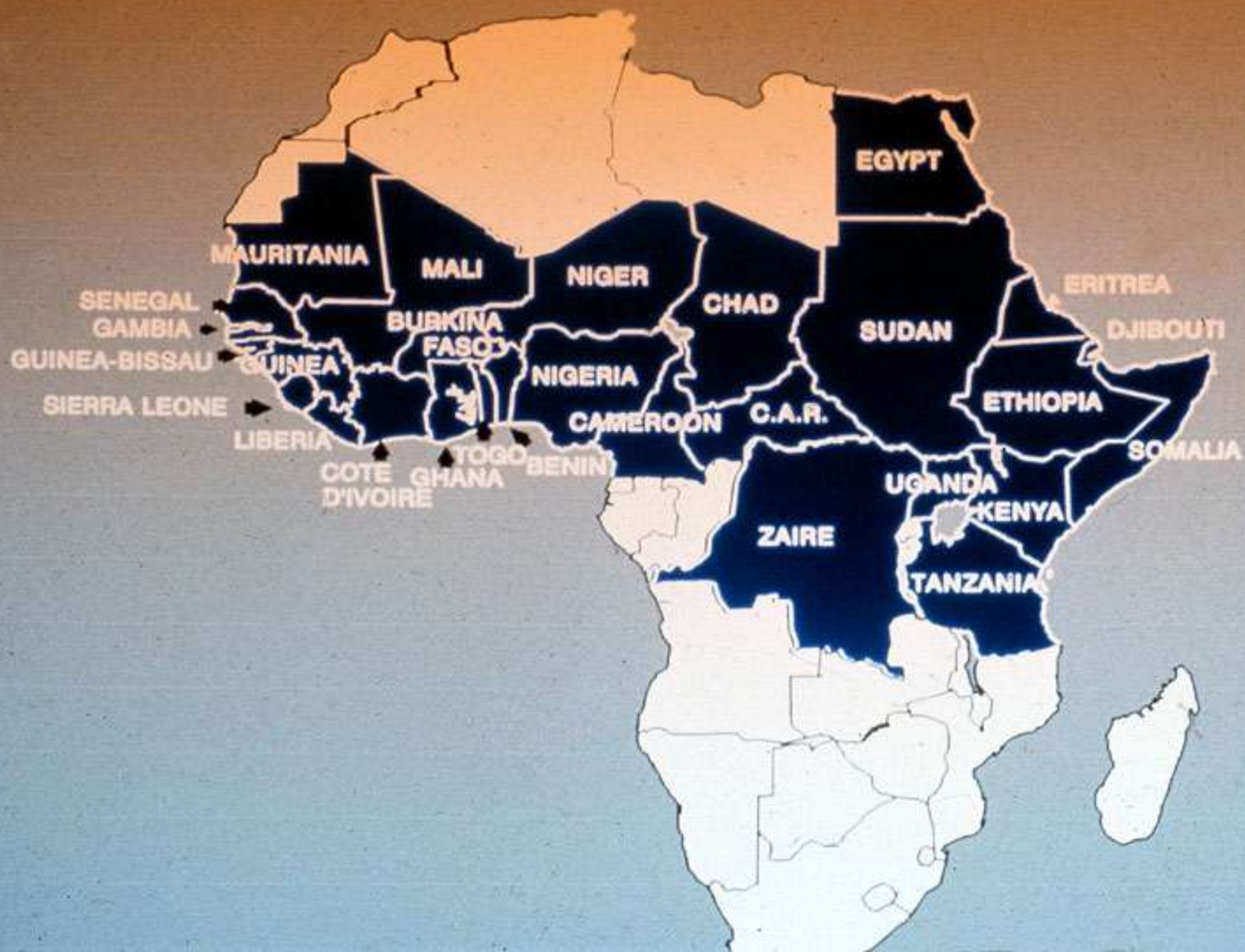


Dr Comfort Momoh MBE
FGM-Consultant/
Public Health Specialist





Female Genital Mutilation in Africa



Geographical Area of FGM

● Somalia	97%
● Djibouti	97%
● Sudan	90%
● Ethiopia	90%
● Burkina Faso	70%
● Egypt	50%
● Nigeria	40%

✂ 2 million at risk every year

RAINBQ_x

Amended typology

Type I

Partial or total removal of the clitoris and/or the prepuce (clitoridectomy)

Type Ia, removal of clitoral hood or prepuce only

Type Ib, removal of clitoris with prepuce

Type III

Narrowing of the vaginal orifice with creation of a covering seal by cutting and appositioning the labia minora and/or the labia majora, with or without excision of the clitoris (infibulation).

Type IIIa, removal and apposition of the labia minora;

Type IIIb, removal and apposition of the labia majora.

Re-infibulation falls under this type.

Type IV

Unclassified: All other harmful procedures to the female genitalia for non-medical purposes, for example, pricking, piercing, incising, scraping and cauterization.

10%

90%

Type II

Partial or total removal of the clitoris and the labia minora, with or without excision of the labia majora (excision)

Type IIa, removal of labia minora only

Type IIb, partial or total removal of clitoris and labia minora

Type IIc, partial or total removal of clitoris, labia minora and labia majora

No prevalence data

- To safeguarded virginity/social control
- To control women's sexual power
- To protect against rape or sexual activity of young girls
- Uncircumcised women are seen as unclean, genital are seen as ugly
- Uncircumcised women are believed to be infertile

Issues around Double standards

- Labiaplasty: is plastic surgery of the labia majora and/or the labia minora, which are the external folds of skin surrounding the structures of the labia – reduces the size
- The procedure involves reducing elongated labia, performed for damage done to the labia during childbirth, larger labia-discomfort

Legislation:

National:

- **Female Genital Mutilation Act 2003**
 - All forms of FGM illegal including being taken abroad for the procedure or when self-inflicted
- **Prohibition of FGM (Scotland) Act 2005**
 - All forms of FGM illegal including being taken abroad for the procedure or when self-inflicted
- **Children's Act 1989**
 - Local Authorities can apply for various orders to prevent children being taken abroad

International:

- UN Convention on the Rights of the Child
- UN Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women

What women says about FGM

- I feel helpless
- My father was against it
- I feel less a woman
- I will not mutilate my daughter

What is Happening in the UK?

- Working together 2010 – “Significant Harm” (health, police and social services)
- Working in partnership with all agencies/information sharing.
- More clinics and guidelines-multi-agency ..
- Holistic care/service
- Using the law as a tool to prevent FGM
- Advocating for women and girls
- FGM Modules collaboration with KCL

The African Well Woman's Clinic



- The clinic provides support, information and advice to women/girls who have undergone Female Genital Mutilation. **We also provide a one stop clinic for surgical reversal of FGM.**

- For more information and referrals please call Dr **Comfort Momoh (MBE) FGM Specialist** on **02071886872** or **07956542576** or page her on **08700555500** Code:881018. Fax **02071880670**

comfort.momoh@gstt.sthames.nhs.uk

- Also provide training, conference and seminars for

Take Home Message

- Working in partnership to safeguard girls
- Reaching out to different groups
- Look for indicators
- Think about other children and the family
- Make referrals
- Needs more political commitments
- More research

Conclusion

It is the responsibility of all care professionals to protect future generations of women from the practice of FGM.

Hence it is important to be aware of FGM and identify women with FGM during antenatal period (at booking) so that a plan of care can be arranged and agreed.

Thanks

Dr Comfort Momoh MBE