

# TRANSMISSION OF FGM/C ACROSS GENERATIONS

QUANTITATIVE ANALYSIS FOR SIX AFRICAN COUNTRIES

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**FGM/C persists in many countries** with often a limited decline over time. What are some of the drivers?



1. Factors associated with FGM/C, actual or intended, by mothers towards their daughters.
2. Factors associated with support for the practice.

Analysis based on DHS data for 6 countries: Burkina Faso, Egypt, Mali, Nigeria, Niger and Uganda (differences in prevalence)

# Community pressure and social norms

- Large and statistically significant effects of local rates of cutting for daughters = role of social norms and community pressures in the perpetuation of the practice



- For example, in Burkina Faso a daughter living in an area where all other daughters are cut or are likely to be faces a risk of being herself cut higher by 28 percentage points.

## Mothers' own past experiences

- In 4 of the 6 countries, risk of cutting increases by 18 to 40 percentage points if the mother was herself cut
- If a mother was married as a child, this increases the risk of cutting for daughters in 5 of the 6 countries

### Notes:

- where being cut relates to “marriageability”, FGM/C is more likely
- Apart from mothers, mothers in law & grandmothers may also play a role



# Wealth and poverty

- In 4 of 6 countries, the risk of daughters being cut and the likelihood for women to support the practice tend to be higher among poorer households (as measured through wealth quintiles)



## Educational attainment

- Mothers with secondary education are less likely to have their daughters cut in 3 of 6 countries and less likely to support the practice in 4 of 6 countries.



- Similar effects are observed in most countries for the education of the husband or partner.

→ Role for investments in girls' (and boys') education apart from targeted interventions

# Conclusion

- Targeted interventions have a key role to play (e.g., Tostan)
- But in addition, there is a role for investments in girls' (and boys') education apart from targeted interventions
- PS: This note is part of a broader work program in the Education Global Practice on the economic cost of child marriage and the benefits of investing in girls' education

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