

Findings from the project

"Supporting Civil Society Action and Movements to end Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting (FGM/C)"

funded by the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs

In a six month period cases of FGM/C in the project area in Liberia have risen from 5 to 913. The Covenant Foundation for Girls are working to combat this rise, but why has it happened?

Key findings to date

School closures

Schools are closed during lockdown and as a result girls are back at home often in rural areas. Normally, communities refrain from FGM/C because it will cause the girls to miss school and schools monitor the well-being of girls. Due to Covid-19 restrictions, this barrier to FGM/C has been lifted.



Government disengagement and profiteering

Prior to 2020 the government was watching and monitoring as all girls need to be in schools and FGM/C practitioners were arrested and fined by the government. Now, the government is issuing licences to practitioners which they charge for, ensuring the government profits off the practice as well.



Opportunism

When schools are closed it is seen as more acceptable to go through FGM/C initiation ceremony, and communities are now using the opportunity of the pandemic to "initiate girls into society". And some girls as young as 2 are being cut.

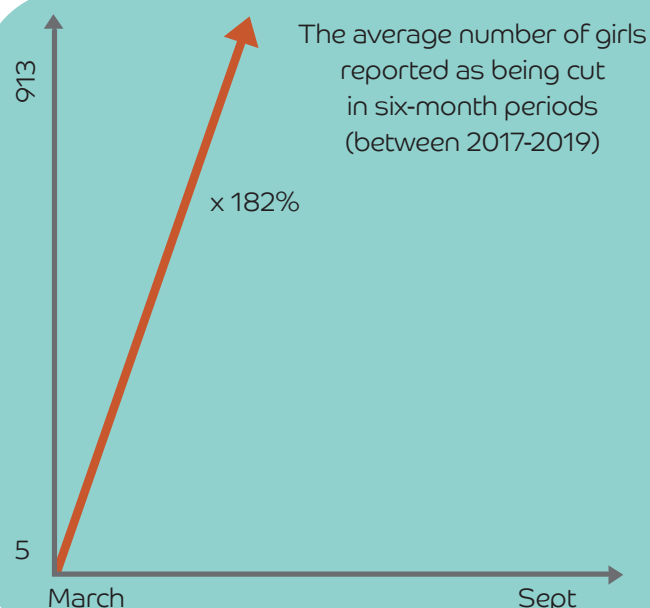


Grantee name:
Covenant Foundation for Girls

Location:
Liberia

Grant Amount:
€20,000

Duration:
6 months
(August 2020- February 2021)



Covenant Foundation for Girls response

Initial focus has been on data collection and signposting, collecting clear numbers and responding to cases means Covenant Foundation or Girls are gathering a clear evidence base for action.

Providing training, using a human-rights framework, to CSOs and services providers and establishing a network which brings practitioners together along with the government representatives to increase the level of public commitment.