



Foreign, Commonwealth
& Development Office

**The Rt Hon. Baroness Chapman of
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Sarah Owen MP and Sarah Champion MP,
Chairs of the Women & Equalities Committee
and International Development Committee,
House of Commons,
SW1A 0AA

December 2025

Dear Sarah and Sarah,

Aid spending on ending Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)

Thank you for your correspondence of 28 November, on behalf of the Women and Equalities Committee and the International Development Committee, regarding the UK's aid spending on ending FGM.

Over the past decade, FCDO has supported survivor and community-led approaches to end FGM, improved laws and policies, and strengthened the evidence base on what works. Progress has been made: today, a girl is a third less likely to undergo FGM, compared to 30 years ago. However it is unacceptable that there are still 230 million women and girls alive who have undergone FGM. Moreover, hard won progress faces multiple challenges, including a growing movement to rollback the rights of women and girls.

The UK remains committed to working through international, national and local partnerships, including with religious and community leaders as well as engaging men and boys, to mobilise attention and action towards ending this human rights violation. For instance, through the FCDO's flagship programme, The Girl Generation–Africa Led Movement to End FGM (ALM) (2019–26), we have supported over 730,000 people in 2024/25 alone.

The ALM programme will conclude in October 2026. Spending for the final year of the programme (26/27) will be confirmed as part of the Spending Review allocation. In advance of this, our priority will be to disseminate its findings to support a more effective response in future. The *Sudan Free of Genital Mutilation Programme Phase 2* (2019-26) will also come to end in March 2026, after a decade's long investment in FGM prevention and response. The investment in these programmes, over the last three years, is provided in Annex A.

We are exploring options for future programming, alongside integrating FGM into our wider portfolio of work on women and girls. For instance, the FCDO, drawing on the learnings from the *Sudan Free of Genital Mutilation Programme Phase 2*, is developing a new five-year

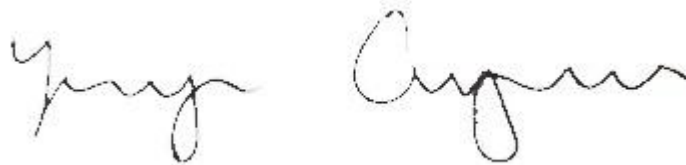
programme to respond to the multi-faceted needs of survivors in Sudan, including those that have experienced conflict related sexual violence.

The UK Government is focused on tackling VAWG, with an unprecedented mission to halve this violence in the UK in the next decade. This is not something one government department can do alone, and the Prime Minister has mobilised the whole of government around this priority. The FCDO will play a critical role, led by the Foreign Secretary who is determined that this commitment be reflected across UK foreign policy. The FCDO will use its diplomatic levers and influence to stand up against human rights violations and abuses, such as FGM, forced marriage and other coercive practices, in order to support women and girls to thrive and flourish, free from violence and free from fear.

Moreover, as I have previously indicated to you (in correspondence dated 5 March), I am committed to ensuring that our domestic and international efforts to stop FGM align and can reinforce one another. To ensure this happens, the FCDO will continue to prevent potential cases of forced marriage and FGM via the FCDO-Home Office Joint Forced Marriage Unit, as well as support the Home Office in delivery of the UK's new VAWG Strategy.

Thank you for your ongoing interest and support.

Yours ever,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Baroness Chapman', written in a cursive style.

**The Rt Hon. Baroness Chapman of Darlington
Minister for International Development and Africa**

Annex A: Previous funding detail

Since 2019, the UK has committed up to £35.5 million towards the Supporting the Africa-Led Movement to End FGM programme. This includes funding to the UN Joint Programme for the Elimination of FGM. Since 2019 we have also funded £20 million towards the Sudan Free of FGM programme. The breakdown of these investments by year is in the table below. In addition, the FCDO funds several programmes on ending violence against women and girls that include FGM.

Year	Spend: ALM programme (2019-26)	Spend: Sudan Free of FGM programme (2019-26)
2022	£609,123	£1,000,000
2023	£2,894,060	£3,809,545
2024	£7,055,218	£4,600,000