

FGC

IN ASIA AND THE MIDDLE EAST

Female genital cutting is a global issue. Whilst it takes place in 27 countries across Africa, girls and women in parts of Asia and The Middle East are also subjected to the practice. It is a taboo and under-researched issue, but has been shown to exist in the countries highlighted below.

Drivers that perpetuate FGC include tradition, culture, social pressure and religion. Although FGC pre-dates Islam, is not mentioned in the Qur'an and is not practised by the majority of Muslims worldwide, FGC is often believed to be an Islamic imperative in some places.



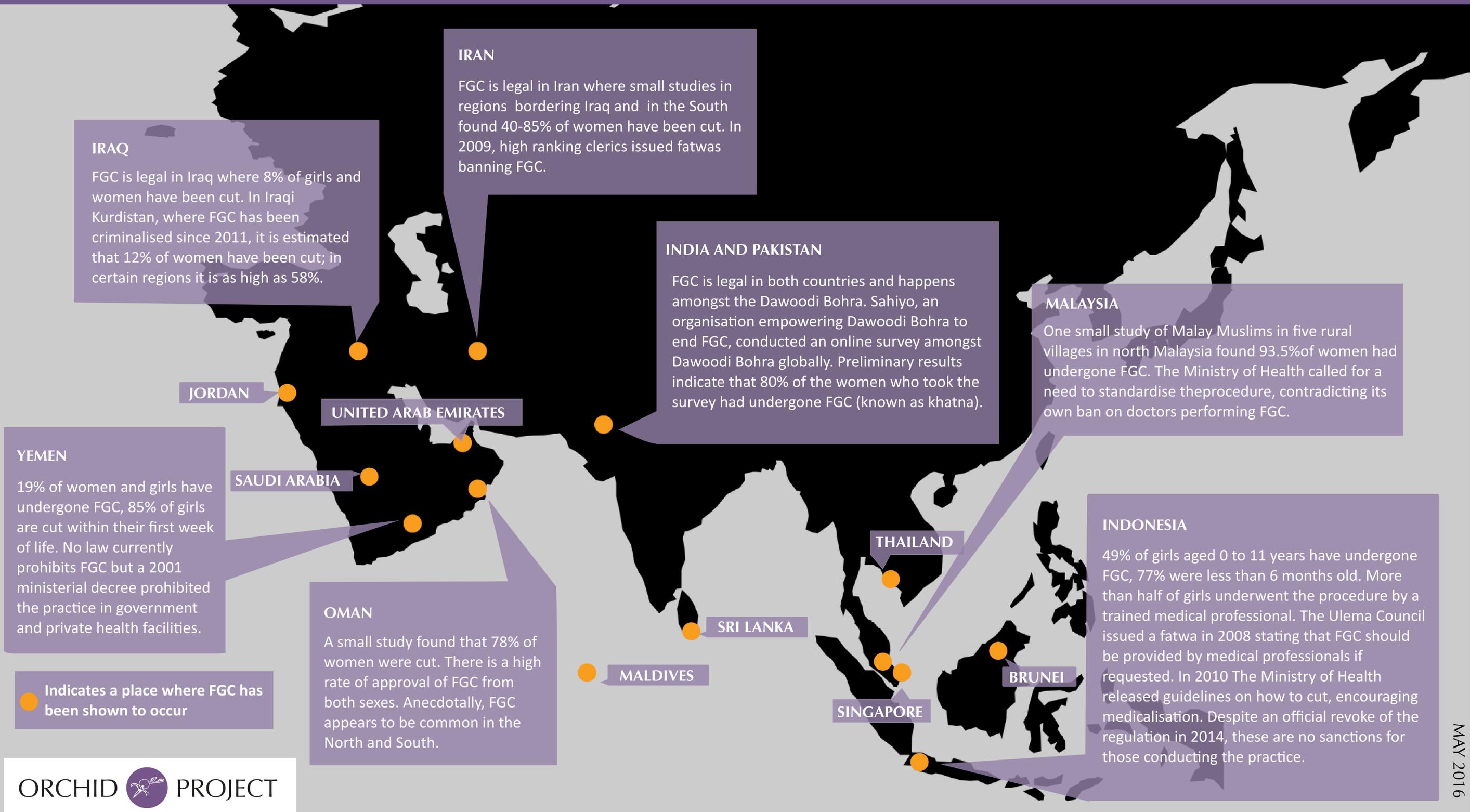
Medicalisation is a growing problem; Indonesia and Malaysia have called for a 'standardisation' of the procedure, legitimising the practice.



52 Islamic Scholars attended a conference in Cairo in 2006, culminating in a fatwa being issued against FGC by Ali Gomaa, Grand Mufti of Egypt.



Very little data exists on the extent of the practice outside of Africa; national prevalence statistics only exist for Iraq, Yemen and Indonesia.



● Indicates a place where FGC has been shown to occur