

Coronavirus threatens Kenya goal to end female genital mutilation



Nairobi, June 10 (RHC)-- The pandemic has put Kenya's goal of ending female genital mutilation (FGM) by 2022 in jeopardy, campaigners against the practice warned, amid reports of "mass cuttings" involving hundreds of girls being held while schools are closed.

Domtila Chesang, an anti-FGM campaigner in West Pokot county which borders Uganda, said she had received reports of up to 500 girls undergoing FGM since schools closed on March 16.

"Girls are not going to school, they are just sitting at home. Some are coming of age. Parents are facing an uncertain future due to loss of income caused by the coronavirus, so they are having the girls cut and will marry them off," said Chesang.

"We cannot respond and campaign the way we used to as our movements are restricted and a lot of it is hidden. It's very unlikely Kenya will meet the target of ending FGM by 2022. The coronavirus is a major setback."

<https://www.radiohc.cu/index.php/en/noticias/internacionales/225339-coronavirus-threatens-kenya-goal-to-end-female-genital-mutilation>



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