



Developing excellence
in response to FGM and
other harmful practices

National FGM Centre - Traditional Terms for Female Genital Mutilation

Country	Language	Term(s) Used	Meaning
Benin	French	L'excision	Excision
Burkina Faso	French	L'excision	Excision
Burundi	Swahili	L'excision	Excision
	Swahili	Tohara kwa wanawake	Circumcision of women
Central African Republic	French/Sango	Ganza	
Chad	Nilo Sudanic Language	Bagne	
	Nilo Sudanic Language	Gadja	
Colombia	Embera	Curacion	Cure/healing/treatment
Cote d'Ivoire	French	L'excision	Excision
	English	Excision	Excision
Democratic Republic of the Congo	Swahili	Kukeketwa	Female Circumcision
	Swahili	Tohara kwa wanawake	Circumcision of women
Djibouti	Somali	Gudnin	Circumcision
	French	L'excision	Excision
Gambia	Mandinka	Niaka	Literally to cut/weed clean
	Mandinka	Kuyungo	The affair'/name given to the shed built for initiates
	Mandinka	Musolula Karoola	The women's side/that which concerns women
Ghana	English	Female circumcision	Female Circumcision
Guinea	English	Female circumcision	Female Circumcision
	English	Excision	Excision
	French	L'excision	Excision
Guinea-Bissau	Creole	Fanado	Circumcision
Egypt	Arabic	Khitan	Circumcision
	Arabic	Khifad	To lower
	Arabic	Thara	To clean/purify
Ethiopia	Amharic	Megrez	Circumcision/cutting
	Harrari	Absum	Name giving ritual

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Eritrea	Tigreña	Mekhnishab	Circumcision/cutting
	Amharic	Grazate	Circumcision
India	Lisan ud-Dawat (dialect of Gujarati)	Khatnauracion	Circumcision
Indonesia	Malay	Sunat perempuan	Female' sunnah or tradition
	Malay	Sunat	Circumcision
Iran		Khatne	Circumcision
	Kurdish Sorani	Khatana	Circumcision
	Farsi	Sunat	Circumcision
Iraqi Kurdistan		Khatana	Circumcision
Java	Javanese	Kres	Hatching/Pricking
	Javanese	Tetesan	Hatching/Pricking
Kenya	Swahili	Kutairi	Circumcision
	Swahili	Kutairi was ichana	Circumcision of girls
	Swahili	Kukeketwa	Female Circumcision
	Swahili	Tohara kwa wanawake	Circumcision of women
Malawi	English	Initiation	Rite of passage
Malaysia	Malay	Wajib	Any religious duty commanded by Allah (God)
	Malay	Sunnah	Religious tradition/obligation (for Muslims)
Maldives	Divehi	Sunnah	Religious tradition/obligation (for Muslims)
Mali	French/Bambara	Selidjili	Ritual Purity
	French/Bambara	Selidjili	Ablution
	French/Bambara	Bolokoli	To wash your hands
	French/Bambara	Sunna	Religious tradition/obligation (for Muslims)
	French	Excision	Excision
Mozambique	Swahili	Tohara kwa wanawake	Circumcision of women
	Swahili	Kukeketwa	Female Circumcision

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Niger	Hausa	Kaciyar mata	Female Circumcision
Nigeria	Igbo	Ibi/Ugwu	The act of cutting
	Yoruba	Didabe fun omobirin/ila kiko fun omobirin	
	General/English	Circumcision	Circumcision
	Ibo	Isa aru	Bathing before delivery
	Mandingo	Sunna	Religious tradition/obligation (for Muslims)
Oman	Arabic	Khifad	Circumcision
	Arabic	Badhr	
Pakistan	Urdu	Khatna	Circumcision
Panama	Embera	Curacion	Cure/healing/treatment
Peru	Embera	Curacion	Cure/healing/treatment
Philippines	Filipino	Pag-Islam	
	Filipino	Sunnah	Religious tradition/obligation (for Muslims)
Rwanda	Kinyarwanda	Bukgukuna imishino	Labia Elongation
	Kinyarwanda	Guca imyeyo	Labia Elongation
Saudi Arabia	Arabic	Sunnah	Religious tradition/obligation (for Muslims)
Sierra Leone	Soussou	Sunna	Religious tradition/obligation (for Muslims)
	Temenee	Bondo	Integral part of an initiation rite into adulthood (for non-Muslims)
	Mendee	Bondo/sonde	Integral part of an initiation rite into adulthood (for non-Muslims)
	Mandinka	Halalays	Sanctioned - implies purity
	Mandingo	Bondo	Integral part of an initiation rite into adulthood (for non-Muslims)
	Limba	Bondo	Integral part of an initiation rite into adulthood (for non-Muslims)
Singapore	Malay	Sunat perempuan	Female Sunnah/circumcision or tradition
	Malay	Sunat	Circumcision
	Malay	Khitan perempuan	Female Circumcision



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Somalia	Somali	Gudiniin	Circumcision
	Somali	Halalays	Sanctioned - implies purity
	Somali	Qodiin	Stitching/tightening/sewing - referring to infibulation
Sri Lanka	Tamil	Sunnah	Religious tradition/obligation (for Muslims)
Sudan	Arabic	Khifad	To lower
	Arabic	Tahoor	To purify/circumcision
	Arabic	Takhor	To purify/circumcision
Tanzania	Swahili	Kukeketwa	Female Circumcision
	Swahili	Tohara kwa wanawake	Circumcision of women
Togo	English	Female circumcision	Female Circumcision
	French	Excision	Excision
Turkey	Turkish	Kadin Sunneti	Circumcision of women
Uganda		Sunnah	Religious tradition/obligation (for Muslims)
	Swahili	Kukeketwa	Female Circumcision
	Swahili	Tohara kwa wanawake	Circumcision of women
Yemen	Arabic	Al-takmeed	Compression
Zimbabwe		U Kwevha	Elongation of the labia minora
	Shona	Kudhonza	Elongation of the labia minora
	Arabic	Sunnah	Religious tradition/obligation (for Muslims)

For more information on FGM please go to
www.nationalfgmcentre.org.uk