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## Afghanistan

[May 1: Female Afghan Coders Design Games to Fight Opium and Inequality](#)

May 1: Women in Iraq's Refugee Camps Taught to Sew

"Vulnerable women living in northern Iraq's refugee camps are being taught how to sew. Paula Horsfall, from Berkshire, has collected old sewing machines and transported them to Iraq, where skills the women learn keep them off the dangerous streets of the r



### Opinion/analysis

#### April 29: FGM is a Barbaric Practice which Risks Vulnerable Lives

“Female genital mutilation, or FGM, is still widely practiced throughout this region and in Africa and Asia. The charity UNICEF estimates 200 million women in 30 countries, including Yemen, Indonesia and the Kurdistan region of Iraq, underwent the procedure in 2016. In the Arab world, Egypt has one of the world’s highest rates of genital mutilation, with an estimated nine in 10 women undergoing an operation, despite the practice being outlawed in 2008.” ([The National](#))

#### April 30: Real Progress in Libya Depends on Women’s Empowerment

“The openness and freedom that Libyans have been enjoying in the last seven years of transition has allowed many women’s advocacy groups to campaign for greater participation and empowerment for women [...]. It is important to remember however, that these strict and extreme religious beliefs are not shared by the overwhelming Libyan population, who tend to be socially conservative and religious, but at the same time open-minded and moderate rejecting all forms of extremist tendencies.” ([The New](#))

Additional MENA Women’s News Briefs are available [here](#).

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~ ~ ~ By May Baaklini & Reda Baig ~ ~ ~