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# ANNUAL REPORT

# 2022

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Somali Peace Line envisions a stable Somalia in which all its citizens exercise their rights and resolve their conflict peacefully. The organizations seek to promote mechanisms for sustainable peace and enjoyment of rights by all. The mandate of SPL covers protection, promotion of human rights, and facilitation of peaceful co-existence of communities.

To realize this, SPL has a strategic focus developed by the leadership, management, and all senior program staff. In line with that strategic plan, the organization has engaged partner organizations and implemented four projects during this reporting period — January to June 2022. SPL has also consulted with civil society organizations, local and national authorities, and international organizations for advocacy and the realization of its objectives and goals.

In 2022, SPL ran four projects and one piece of research with five different organizations: SOMNORAD framework projects with Save the Children International (SCI); Integrated Emergency Food and Child Protection Assistance to Multiple Shocks-Affected Communities in Abudwaq; Challenging Harmful Attitudes and Norms for Gender Equality and Empowerment in Somalia (CHANGES 2) in partnership with SCI and Connecting Across Divides: Youth building peace in Somalia in partnership with (LPI), Sustainable TVET in partnership with University of Bristol in Mogadishu.

The coverage areas of the program is Abudwak, Adado, and Dusamareb in Galmudug, Baledweyn, and Jowhar in HirShabelle, Baidoa in Southwest, and Mogadishu. In 2022, Through its projects, the SPL program reached 26,334 direct beneficiaries. Out of these beneficiaries 9,861 were children (4,273 boys and 5,588 girls); and 16,473 were adults (5,914 men and 10,559 women). Of these beneficiaries 1,468 were people with disabilities including 584 children (278 boys, and 306 girls) and 884 adults (306 men and 278 women), the program has also reached approximately 160,000 indirect beneficiaries through distributing IEC material, and airing radio programs, interviews, talkshows,); This, SPL worked with 66 suppliers in all areas, and employed 28 people to reach these beneficiaries.

SPL staff had training and capacity building workshops including Onboarding MEL workshop, Online mobile filmmaking and storyboarding training, Data Visualization, PWV ToT training, Transitional Justice Policy, Girl Shine & CEFE ToT training, GBV and safeguarding training. These trainings and capacity building workshop will help the organization's staff to better implement activities related to these approaches in the field. In 2022, SPL program Managed a total budget of 1,158,657.14 USD, utilizing a total budget of 1,125,839.99, currying forward a balance of 32,817.15 USDt

## CONTEXT OVERVIEW



On 29th May 2022, Somali Peace Line lost its long served executive director who was one of the organization's founders, Late Abdullahi Mohamed Shirwa, May Allah rest his soul in Jannah. Abdullahi was a veteran Civil Society activist, an academic, a peacebuilder, an advocate for the vulnerable people and an advocate for state building in Somalia.

The President, and the Prime Minister of the Federal Government of Somalia, the Speaker of the upper house of the Feder Parliament, MPs, Cabinet Members Civil Society members, Religious scholars and business community attended the Janazah of Late Abdullahi Mohamed Shirwa to pray for him, and wish Allah may grant him Jannah. SPL BOD and senior Management team decided to fill the vacant position of SPL ED internally, Ahmed Diini Hassan, then Operation Manager of SPL, apply to step in, and the BOD had interview with him to recruit.

In this reporting period, there has been dramatic change in the country among them being the federal elections which after hurdles and high-level security incident successful happened in the country and peaceful transfer of power become possible contrary to the fear of most of the people. On 15 May 2022, the members of the houses of the Parliament, who were 75% new, elected His Excellence Hassan Shiekh Mohamud to be the 10th President of the country. It is the second time President Hassan is elected to lead the country, as he was the 8th President of the country. On the 15 June, President Hassan appointed HE Hamza Barre to be the Prime Ministry of the country. The Houses of the Parliament gave of confident to the appointed Prime minister on the 25 June 2022.

The process of the election was not smooth this term and major in security incidents happened namely the suicide attacks in Baledweyn which claimed the life of former MPs, intellectuals, elders, Civil society persons, members of election delegates, and other civilians, and the roadside bomb attack targeted to the election committee near Jowhar Airport.

There has also been a draught that affected large number of populations in Somalia. According to FSAU report

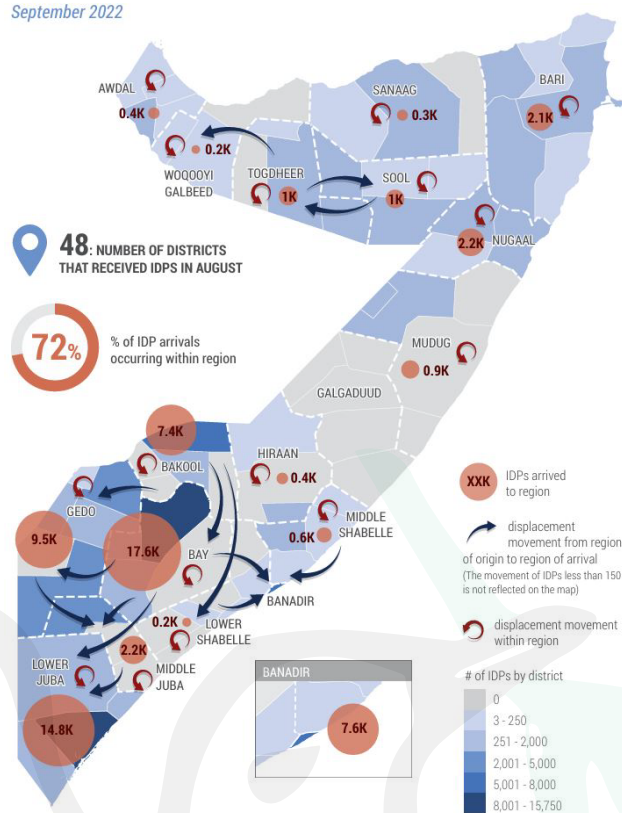


in May, acute food insecurity has continued to worsen across Somalia, with an estimated 5.2 million people (or 33% of the total population) already experiencing Crisis or worse, including 38,000 people in Catastrophe, as of May 2022, despite the ongoing delivery of humanitarian food assistance. However, humanitarian assistance delivery is far short of the rising level of need, and insufficient funding is expected to lead to pipeline breaks in food assistance delivery after June. Food insecurity and malnutrition are expected to deteriorate further and faster between June and September 2022. These include areas parts of Galgudud, Hiran and Bay regions where SPL Program is targeting with projects that are not directly addressing growing need of humanitarian food assistant, but rather protection and peacebuilding.

As this is not enough burden for the communities, there were armed conflicts in majority of SPL program invention areas. There was clan revenge killing in Abudwak, Baledweyn, and there were seperate attacks from Ahlu-Sunna, AS to Dusa-mareb and Bahdo in Galgudud respectively. All these armed conflicts claimed the lives of combatants and civilians, and instigated displacement to local people who were already battling the hardship of the draughts.

## Displacement Movements

September 2022

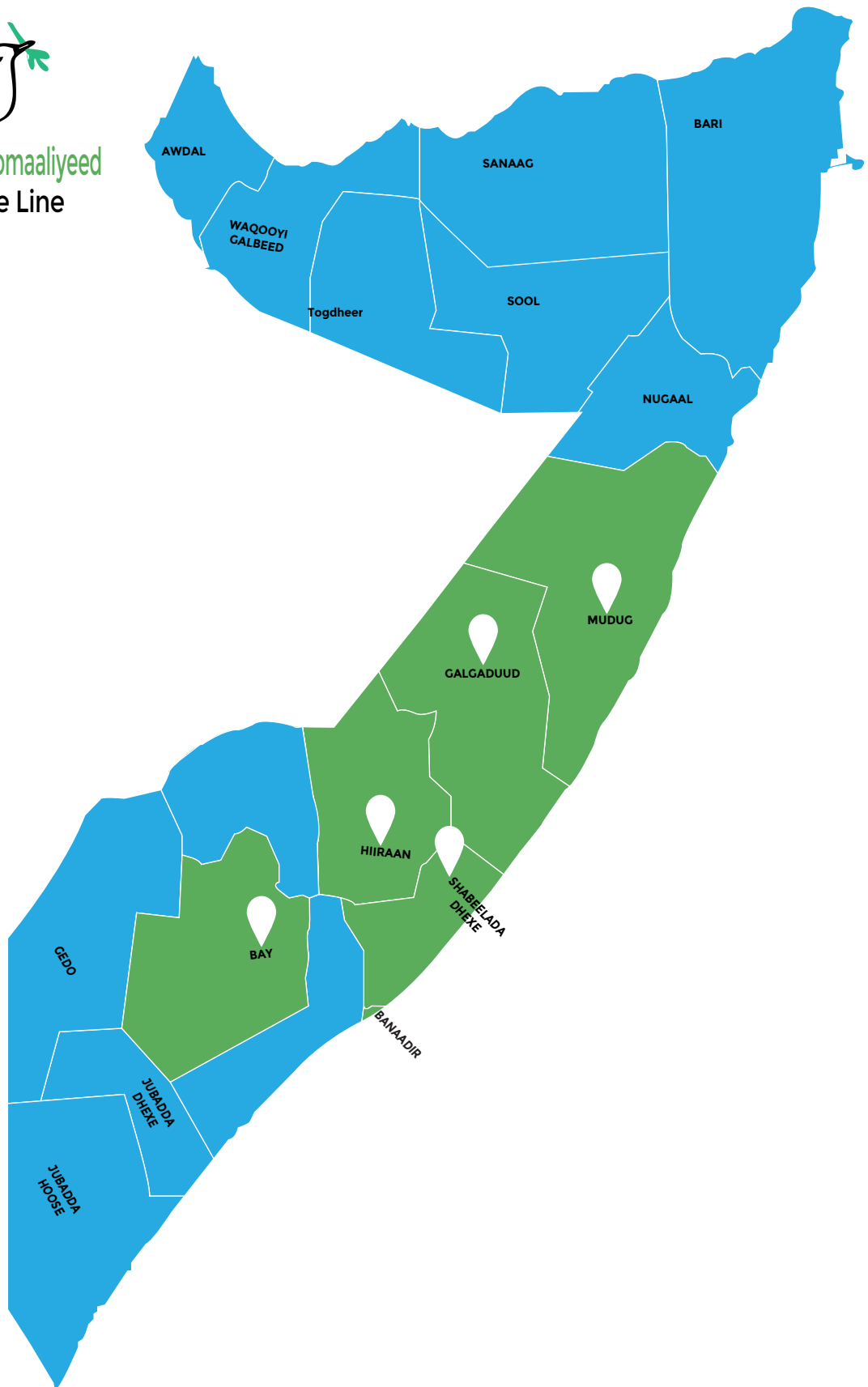


Source: Drought Displacement Monitoring Dashboard (May 2022)

# WHERE DO WE WORK?



Tubta Nabadda Soomaaliyeed  
Somali Peace Line



# CONNECTING ACROSS DEVIDES: YOUTH BUILDING PEACE IN SOMALIA.

## Introduction

Somali Peace Line (SPL), and its partner Life and Peace Institute (LPI) started implementing connecting across divides: youth and building peace in Somalia project funded in SIDA contribution. This project builds on the previous work of these organizations to contribute to the sustainable transformation of local conflicts in target areas (Jowhar, Baidoa, and Abudwak), and inclusion of youth in local peace and conflict decision-making processes (socio-political change). Key activities during the reporting period included: The project reached 685 beneficiaries of whom 361 were male, and 324 female.

**1. The finalization and dissemination of Baidoa and Jowhar women & youth research** (SPL) which took place in the cities of Jowhar and Baidoa, which were the places where the data was collected.

The purpose of this meeting was to share with the people the results of the research done to put them into practice. The total number of participants were 100 people (53 women, 47 men).

## 2. Strategic Workshop for SD Youth (Advocacy in Peace) in Baidoa, Abudwak, Jowhar

Somali Peace Line with the help of Life & Peace Institute conducted two consecutive days of strategic workshop for advocacy in peace with SD beneficiaries. The workshop participants consists of seventy-five members (38 Male & 37 Female). The workshop aimed to strengthen the capacity of the SD youth platform to active collaborate and advocate with key community actors in peace and decision making.



It also capacitated them to identify the problems existing within the community that needs to be addressed, analyze these issues and find appropriate advocacy measures. The participants were introduced the meaning of advocacy, types of advocacy, how to develop advocacy plan and structure of the advocacy plan. They were also taught the need of advocacy and lobby for the peace building initiatives by identifying/understanding the existing problems in the community to find proper solutions in operation. The participants were also taught how to communicate their advocacy message to the people, the target audience for a particular message, how to peacefully convey a message without upsetting a particular group during the advocacy.

During the workshop the participants are divided into groups to identify the existing problems within the community, then make advocacy and lobby for the issues, key stakeholders to use and appropriate communication channels that use during the advocacy work. They were also asked any advocacy related activity for the personal experiences and mentioned following:

#### **Main Activities to be conducted to advocate this issue**

1. A forum between the trained SD youth and other youth.
2. Consultation meeting between youth, Women group, community leaders, religious leaders, politician and the local authority
3. Dialogue forum with clan leader/ (Ugaas)
4. Meeting with the council of elders

#### **Support Peace Day & Youth Day Initiative Using Creative Approaches in Baidoa Abudwak and Jowhar.**

Somali Peace Line with youth state ministries

of (southwest, Galmudug and Hirshabelle) jointly celebrated the Somali youth Day-15 May, 2022. The event took place at the state headquarters of Baidoa, Jowhar and Abudwak town with the total three hundred people of which (138 F & 162M) each state of one hundred people. The participants are selected from different category of the community include SD participants, youth leaders from the district, local authority and guest from the state ministries and director generals. The event aimed to inspire youth following the footsteps of those who brought the independence to our country. It was also to give youth an opportunity to share their issues with relevant leaders & local authorities by attracting their attention about the significance of youth engagement in both regional and national political and peace building processes.

#### **4.Support youth-led initiatives: In order to deal with security issues and also to improve the relationship.**

between the youth and the traditional leaders and elders, about 9 initiatives were held and 270 people from all different sectors of society such as youth, women, religious leaders, government leaders, security participated. Forces. The implemented activities included discussion forum between SD youth and other youth groups; meetings between Youth platform and Council of elders; meetings between Youth Platform and women groups, clan elders and local authorities on the role of youth in PB; talk shows on the role of youth in Peace building, and meetings between youth and police force

#### **4.1 Discussion Forum between SD youth platform and other youth groups in Baidoa Abudwak and Jowhar.**

On 25th, June, 2022; Somali Peace Line



organized a discussion forum invited with members of SD youth platform, youth from the districts/regions and youth organizations. The Participants consist of 120 (63M & 57F) having different background and experiences related with various issues facing youth in terms of gender, age bracket and education. The meeting aimed that youth should discuss the concrete issues facing youth in their context to come up with the main issues and then discuss with the key community stakeholders for intervention. It also promotes their social interaction through collaboration of youth groups. The youth discussed the concrete problems existing at the environment that challenges them such as insecurity, unemployment, migration, drug abuse, sexual harassment, discrimination, rape, lack youth entrepreneurship and limited space in peace and decision making process. All these problems and many are discussed on their root causes, how they affected the youth and they could final contribute in order to tackle them. It was also agreed that the problems need excess support beyond youth from the other stakeholders of the society include elders, women, business, politicians, religious and local authorities. They final agreed with the main five problems to share their concerns with the key stakeholders and will invite the elders with the next meeting. They will share the effect of these problems and how they will contribute as youth and then listen the way-forward of the elders who are seen as most prominent figure in the community stakeholders.

#### **4.2 Discussion Forum between SD youth platform and the police in Jowhar in Jowhar.**

Somali Peace Line conducted one session about community policing between members from the law enforcers and SD youth platform at Beder hotel in Jowhar. The partic

ipants consists of thirty people (18M & 12F). The aimed promoting the security through collaboration between the community and police while boasting the skills of police forces, to prevent and counter insecurity. This session intended to enhance the role of youth and community to close collaborate with law enforcers and youth. It also strengthen the relationship between the law enforcers and the youth. During the session, the participant agreed to provide the capacity building related the community police, forming village committee that consists of community and police forces by increasing the number of solar lights in the town and forming hot-line (999) to call when the problems occur. At the end of the meeting, both the police and the youth agreed to form a committee consist of police and youth who will work together on security and stabilization issues. The committee members include (4 police officers and 7 youth) which is (4M & 3F), they also set up WhatsApp group to communicate with the committee.

#### **5. Organization of youth and women-led interactive dialogue platforms that bring together relevant leaders and authorities and community members:**

The SPL organized meetings led by women and youth and was attended by 60 people (27f, 33m) from government leaders, clan elders, women and youth. At the meeting in Abudwak, issues related to security and revenge killings were discussed. In Jowhar, the building of the local council was discussed, which is expected to take place soon in that city, and how women and youth should have a prominent role. In Baidoa participants debated how women and youth can participate better in peace building and government building.

## Outcomes

- The collaboration between youth groups on cross-clan issues.
- 10 (5F, 5M) youth members attached to the Abudwak Council of Elders to work with in peacebuilding and clan reconciliation.
- Willingness of local administrations and traditional leaders to include youth in decision-making.
- Local authorities and elders are appointing young people to high positions. The current Mayor Jowhar was a member of the SD project.
- Dissemination of Research on women and youth's role in peacebuilding- Jowhar, and Baidoa.
- Youth Platforms are proactive and taking Humanitarian initiative in Jowhar:
- The Jowhar Youth Volunteers (JYV) established by SD youth including: Iftar for poor families and response to AWD outbreak and vulnerable families in Moyko village.
- Reduced violence: Clan Conflict Prevention in Abudwak i.e after killing deputy commander of NISA in Galgudud and Prevention of potential violence from the election process in Baidoa

- Enhanced trust and relationship between youth and other stakeholders: Collaboration with elders and Local authorities in Baidoa and Abudwak,
- Employment opportunities: caseworkers in one of SPL projects (SPL), and JYV partnered with TIS3/USAID to facilitate community dialogue

## Challenges

- Community expectation for SPL to respond to the effects of the draughts in Baidoa and Abudwak where a large number of IDPs arrived.
- Recurring intra-clan clashes in Abudwak.
- Electoral challenges- District council formations.
- Delay of activities during elections and council formation in Jowhar, Baidoa, Mogadishu.



## Introduction

Somali Peace in Partnership with Hayle Barise Technical Development Center started a research project on Sustainable TVET funded by University of Bristol in December 2022. After Somalia's 30-year war, the country has suffered the absence of a governing political presence, which has resulted in the damage of systems such as education. The lack of bureaucracy between 1991-2012 culminated in a population with little to no skills, proving to be detrimental to the country's development. Unfortunately, the belief that TVET education was considered deficient and insignificant in comparison to more academic qualifications like bachelor's degrees left the country without a foundation for sustainable development.

The project primarily addresses the Transforming Education for Sustainable Futures (TESF) priority of the UN Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 8 Sustainable Livelihoods. It is also relevant to UN SDG13 on climate action and engages with the TESF priority of reducing inequalities (in relation to poverty, minority status and gender).

The project relies on co-producers as a means of streamlining research, through instrument development, sampling, and conducting cohesive research methods. In collaboration, the team aim to generate new knowledge when retrieving primary data from research methods. This data will be evaluated against previous literature to provide comprehensive insight as to how TVET can promote sustainable development in Somalia. This research used a range of different methods to collect and analyze data to produce an empirical study.

The purpose of an empirical study is to produce a study that has a research question, gathers primary data, assesses the limitation of previous literature and analyses data collected for evaluation. The evaluation intends to be supplementary to the literature on TVET in both Africa and Somalia. With the limited previous research on Sustainable Development and TVET in Somalia, there is a lack of implementation of methodologies in the country. Therefore, this project looks to question stakeholders on their views on Sustainable TVET. The project divides the research question into five themes, Aspiration, Decent Work, Gender Equality, Poverty Reduction and Context. To increase engagement and participation, participants were promised anonymity to allow for them to express their opinions views and beliefs freely.

## Centre and Site Selection

The project selected two TVET centers, one secondary school and one university in Mogadishu to participate in the research. TVET centres included Hayle Barise Technical Development Centre and Hano Academy, the Secondary school was Nilyen Primary and Secondary School, and lastly, the university is the Somali International University. The project team decided to conduct the focus group at their respective campuses this helped with participation and comfortability.

## Participants

The chosen sites were contacted and asked to provide a list of enrolled trainees/-students or graduates who could partake in focus group discussions as focus group participants. A committee of co-producers made up of TVET trainees and graduates then selected a sample of participants

from each list to create the desired demographic profile representative of Somali youth in Mogadishu. One hundred and twenty individuals were initially on the list, and after selection, the participant list was reduced to a total of seventy-four individuals.

### Implementation

Six focus groups were completed at four different sites between June 2 and September 6, 2022. Except for the pilot discussion, the groups were deliberately chosen to be gender balanced. Experience working with Somali female youth

indicates that they are more comfortable discussing the stigma around women in TVET around other women in similar predicaments. All focus groups were conducted in Somali and lasted approximately 2 hours long.

### Data Analysis

The data researched itself was gained via focus groups, interviews, workshops, and events. To analyze the data successfully the team decided to focus on thematic-based analysis. The recurring themes homed in on were decent work, aspirations, gender equality, poverty reduction and context. To focus exclusively on these five themes, the team created research tools specifically designed to collect data relevant to the themes. Tools included but were not limited to focus groups and interview questions surveys and questionnaires.

### Aspirations

Aspiration as a theme draws upon the ability of TVET to improve the lives of individuals regarding its value. With value being a subjective construct, it is difficult to evaluate and measure its depth by simply analyzing one's economic freedom. However, fortunately, the participants selected were an enthusiastic sample and even though there were disagreements

on how TVET increase the value of lives and to what extent it increases it all participants were in complete agreement that TVET indeed improves the quality of an individual life. There were differing views on how TVET facilitates a life of value and how soon one would receive this gratification after graduating from a TVET institute. Some considered TVET to have long-term impacts on people's lives and by extension impacting their lives long after graduation. Although some participants argued that it would take a while for the impacts of TVET to be seen in the value of one's life. Others argued that TVET immediately improves the quality of life for all beneficiaries as it instils ethics such as 'discipline' and 'resilience'.

### Decent work

The theme of decent work is based on TVET's ability to promote employment and professions that are good for Somalia's sustainability. With Somalia recovering from the civil war, interviewees from both the private and public sectors emphasized that Somalia needs to focus on its technical-based industry like agriculture, fishery, and construction. Focusing on these industries became a re-occurring point of discussion in all interviews about improving the country's sustainability. Participants argued that if the country followed the blueprint, it once had prior to the civil war, and adapt to the current global climate the country's sustainability would improve tenfold.

### Gender equality

All focus groups were specifically chosen to be gender balanced as experience with working Somali females indicates that Somali women prefer to talk about sensitive topics amongst other females in a similar position as themselves as it empowers

ly, due to the stigma surrounding women in TVET, the skillbased industry is that one that lacks competition and diversity.

### Poverty reduction

Many participants argued that poverty is ubiquitous and with the current rate of youth undergraduate bachelor's applications and employment rate not matching up, another approach must be taken. The analysis of this theme evaluates how TVET can reduce poverty and towards what extent it can reduce it.

Several of our participants in the focus groups were university graduates who struggled to gain employment upon their graduation and as a result sort TVET as an opportunity to achieve employment or the skills necessary to become a self-employed entrepreneur.

This emphasizes how the market is currently saturated with unemployed individuals seeking white-collar jobs. This point is further explored in the one-on-one interviews with business owners who expressed that many industries currently rely heavily on outsourcing labor from foreign countries and that the demand for domestically sourced labor is at an all-time high, alluding to the idea that there are industries with a job opportunity that required skilled personnel however the supply for such personnel is limited.

TVET provides Somalis with the necessary resources to obtain the desired skills and benefit from the needed opportunities.

### Context

Surprisingly, despite the lack of global knowledge participants demonstrated an overwhelming passion for global harmony with regard to environmental and social change. Some participants expressed that a global shift towards renewable energy means that Somalia itself should also seek renewable means to improve the country's carbon footprint. Other argued that the benefits of renewable energy are not limited to a reduction of carbon footprint but also allows for affordable energy for millions of Somalis. Through discussion, it became apparent that many Somalis are oblivious to the change in climate and therefore are unable to understand the importance of environmental awareness.

When discussing the differences in the impacts of TVET locally, regionally, and globally the lack of awareness about TVET became prevalent, with participants explaining how they were introduced to TVET and irregular this introduction was. This irregularity alludes to the idea that TVET is a niche topic with participants' friends and family not knowing that TVET even exists.

# SOM- NORAD project framework

## 2019 - 2023



SOM- NORAD project framework (2019-2023), is an integrated project which addresses Education, Child Right Governance, and Child Protection focusing on Puntland and South-Central Somalia. Somali Peace line focuses on Hiran and Galgudud regions, namely in Abudwak, Balam-bale, Herale, Dhabad, and Mirjiicley of Galgadud region, and Baledweyn, Mataban, Jawiil, and Bergadiid. The project is funded by Save the Children international Norway and is implemented by the Somali Peace line, TASS, and ministries of education at the Federal level and Puntland levels.

Somali Peace Line aimed to contribute to the following overall project objectives and outcomes in 2022:

Overall Objective: Deprived children especially girls and CWDs develop and learn.

Issue 1: Children Learn and Develop.

- Outcome 1.1: Access, inclusion, and equity in education is enhanced especially for most marginalized groups
- Outcome 1.5: SC intervention schools are free of physical and humiliating punishment (PHP), fighting, bullying, and Gender-Based Violence (GBV)

Overall Objective: Children are protected from abuse and exploitation.

Issue 2: Children are safe in schools.

- Outcome 2.1: Improved capacity of duty bearers (parents, communities, and government) to protect boys and girls from all forms of abuse, violence, and exploitation in their homes and target communities.

Conducive policy and legal framework for children created in Somalia.

Issue 3: Children's rights

- Outcome 3.1: CSO's and child-led groups are strengthened to hold the duty bearer accountable for fulfilling children's rights.



them. As well as conducting focus groups co-producers expressed that it was important that the team conduct a female empowerment workshop. Through discussions in focus groups and interviews, it became prevalent that a sense of gender equality has been achieved in formal education with the gender balance becoming more and more even in the last few years. This is due to improvements in living standards and the emphasis on the importance of women in a particular industry such as that of healthcare with 60% of all female university undergraduates studying courses such as public health and nursing. However, unfortunate.

In 2022, SPL implemented the fourth year of NORAD Project frameworks in partnership with Save Children International. This year the project worked on all three Issues but focused on issues 2 and 3. In total, the project reached 10914 beneficiaries of (2806 boys, 3376 girls, 1755 men and 2977 women). It empowered the community structures, promoted children's participation, reduced the physical and humiliating punishment against children at school; strengthened the collaboration between service users and service providers to facilitate timely case management and referral pathways; built accountability mechanisms between children, and duty bearers including government and public service providers, training local media houses to better report children's issues, and participate in the advocacy.

Through awareness made by the trained community structures (CWCs, Children's groups, and CEC) the project contributed to the increase in school enrolment in the target areas. The project has also promoted disability inclusion by mainstreaming most project activities; advocated for better

service provision for the children through social accountability engagement with the duty bearers and service providers; reduced risks and hazards in and around the school by filling or rehabilitating open latrine pits abandoned water wells.

As a result of the Somali child right coalition consultation meeting, the coalition has planned to engage the government on issues of CAAFAG, the CSOs campaign for drafting the child rights bills, education for disability and street children, alternative care arrangements for children including save heaven and rehabilitation centres, implementation of disability acts and all other relating protocols.

## Activities and strategies

To achieve the desired outcomes, the project collaborated with schools (students and teachers), communities, and parents. It has employed specific strategies including working with community education committees and child welfare committees in schools and communities, such as training these structures on child rights and protection, as well as mentoring and community facilitators to facilitate common approaches, such as positive disciplining / Parenting without Violence (PwV), and community conversations (CC). The project also established and supported child right clubs, parent groups, groups, and CECs; raised awareness among community structures, CSOs, schoolteachers, religious leaders, traditional elders, school children and local authorities on CRG and CP; and engaged government officials in advocacy and lobbying for improvement of public services for the children including education, health and protection.

**Outcome 1.5: SC intervention schools are free of physical and humiliating punishment (PHP),**



fighting, bullying, and Gender-Based Violence (GBV): In this outcome, to make the schools free from physical and humiliating punishment, fighting, and bullying, the project has conducted a set of activities including, community mobilization and awareness-raising on the effect of GBV on children's education, and impacts of PHP, GBV, bullying and fighting on children's lives for the children; and sensitizing workshops on PWV. The school children have gained knowledge on PHP, bullying, GBV, and skill to combat issues against girls. Additionally, they have acquired knowledge of international legal frameworks like the UNCRC.

School-based reporting mechanisms were established in 27 target schools in Hiran and Galgudud reaching 100% of this year's target. The project trained children's clubs and in-school and out-of-school children on how to access and use suggestion boxes and supplied one in each target school. As the school head teachers reported, the children used suggestion boxes to provide feedback or report incidents. As SCI has the keys to the suggestion boxes. The community structures combated physical and emotional punishment, bullying, fighting in schools, and gender-based violence. They regularly make mediations to resolve PHP, bullying, and fighting in schools. For example, in one incident in Baledweyn, a teacher reported a student's misbehavior to his parents who then beat up the child to respond to the complaint of the teacher (more cultural in the community). The CWCs received the report addressing the case. They sat with the teacher and parent separately telling them that physical punishment is not the solution for disciplining an adolescent child; both the teacher and the parent should develop effective communication and friendship with the children. This year,

children reported that the degree of PHP and GBV practices of the schools has gone down and children's capacity to participate in decisions concerning them has been improved. *"After I learned the negative impacts of the PHP, bullying, and fighting at schools, as a chair of the CRG children, we had several sessions with the school administrations to address issues we as children view as a PHP or misconduct of the teachers or within students and we had successfully managed and our school enjoys zero PHP and bullying,"* **Abdiwahid 13 Doomey primary school, Baledweyn.**

As part of the initiatives to get schools free from GBV and promote gender equality, the project conducted 10 sessions of the CHOICES curriculum for school children between the ages of 10 and 14 targeting 120 children (60 boys; 60 girls) in Hiran and Galgudud. The target children reported having changed perspectives on gender roles. *'Before the choice's sessions, I never thought that girls could do what boys could and as well, boys could cook food, wash clothes, and do household chores. Now, I have learned everything helpful in my life. I will help my sisters and other children at school or at home,'* **Yakub, 12 from Domey.** Ten girls' support groups were established and strengthened in 10 target schools (30 girls per school) by conducting a series of workshops covering topics like, such as puberty and hygiene, assertiveness, decisionmaking, conflict resolution, relationship building, public speaking, problem-solving, and children's rights. The girls reported having increased confidence and enhanced life skills. *'I attended the sessions where I gained assertiveness and other important knowledge. It has equipped me with the confidence of saying no and asking for help on issues that may block my hopes and dreams. I involved my maternal uncles*



Abandoned water well in Ex-airport before rehabilitation

to intervene in a marriage proposal from a man I did not know who approached my father. Thus, I have managed to escape from it and now enjoy my school,' **Naimo, a 17-year-old from Agabarur school.**

The psychosocial well-being of 330 vulnerable children (164 boys, 166 girls) was improved after the project provided psychosocial support through group activities and counselling. Teachers and school patrons supported the identification of children with stress and other challenging situations, including those who showed low attendance in and out of class activities, difficulty in concentration, and survivors of neglect and communal discrimination. The project team and school patrons facilitated the group activities for the children after classes.

The sessions were designed in a way that children could share their opinions, have fun stories, exchange ideas, and play freely. There were creative and fun learning and recreational activities. PSS sessions helped children understand their emotions, feel empathy, make decisions, and build healthy relationships. *'I appreciate this opportunity and thank my teachers and the project staff who selected me to participate. I can see some changes in me when it comes to dealing with stress and listening to other people's perspectives or points of view,'* **Farhiyo from Agabarur primary school.**



Abandoned water well in Ex-airport after rehabilitation

## Outcome 1.6: Boys and girls learn in a safe learning environment.

Outcome 1.6: Boys and girls learn in a safe learning environment; risks and hazards in and around schools were assessed by the children by drawing and identifying the most sensitive risks in and around their schools in sessions facilitated by the project team. Target children and community structures' awareness and

understanding of potential risks and hazards in school surroundings increased. the outcome has reached 1615 beneficiaries 508 (233 boys, 275 girls), and 1107 adults (376 men, 731 women) including 9 persons with disabilities (3 boys, 2 girls and 4 women) were trained on the concept and guiding principles of DRR and various participatory tools to assess risks and hazards, and understood how to identify, map, and mitigate risks and hazards. Thus, they developed age-and gender-appropriate action plans. This came after the project team conducted 10 children led DRR workshops, meeting the yearly target 100%. The CWCs, CECs, teachers, and parents came together and discussed the risks identified by their children in a separate session. The identified risks and hazards included collapsed water wells and latrine pits, and unsafe drinking water for some schools.

In response to these risks and hazards, the project has managed to rehabilitate four latrines and one water well; and covered/

filled up another four latrines' pits and one water well which posed risks to school children in the project target schools in the Hiran region, especially Exairport, Bulsho-deeq, and Agabarur schools. Children can now freely play inside their school playground without fear of falling into the latrines or the deep-water wells, and no longer fall sick because of drinking dirty water. *"There were almost four collapsed latrines and water well in our school compound that forced us not to play, now it is all over, and I can jump around and chase my ball"* **Mohamed Ali, 12-year-old, from ex-airport school.** The children, the CECs, the CWCs, and school administrators developed participatory contingency plans as an integral part of inclusive School Improvement Plans to address emergencies and risks in schools and set aside funds for implementation. The schools' community contributed to the rehabilitation activities with manpower, coordination, and clearing of the rehabilitation areas. Below are some of the mitigation steps agreed upon by the children, the CWCs, the CECs, and the school administration to prevent children from risks:

1. Provide an awareness session for the school children and teach them the consequences of the risks and prevention skills .
2. Establish a committee consisting of all schools to look for a budget for the risks that can be managed e.g., contribution from the community
3. Built a road dump in front of the school gates
4. Cover the water wells with strong metal and fill them with soil.
5. Providing weekly remembrance of the risks from the schools during parades

**Outcome 2.1: Improved capacity of duty bearers (parents, communities, and government) to protect boys and girls from all forms of abuse, violence, and exploitation in their homes and target communities.**

In outcome 2.1, the capacity of duty bearers (parents, communities, and the government) was improved to protect boys and girls from all forms of abuse, violence, and exploitation in their homes and target communities. The project has trained 32 facilitators and mentors (11 men, 21 women) in the parenting without violence community as TOTs. The trained facilitators and mentors conducted 10 sessions on positive discipline for 320 adults (124 men, 196 women) parents and caregivers meeting the yearly target 100%, facilitated 9 structured and creative group sessions for 320 children (150 boys and 170 girls) meeting the yearly target 100%, and conducted 4 adult-child interactions for 440 children and parents.

Parents and caregivers gained more awareness and information on the various forms of violence against children and their short- and long-term effects, thus many parents pledged to abandon corporal punishment, and promised to develop good relations with their children during community celebrations, following the completion of 34 cohorts. Adult-child interaction sessions showed improved communication between children and parents when they engaged in child-centered discussions. Home visits showed that many parents adopted positive parenting of other children outside the PwV program – including non-discriminatory behaviour toward both girls and boys. PwV program was implemented this year outside main towns including Mataban, Bergadid, Jawiil, Dabad, Herale, Mirjecley, and Sunlight (Abudwak).

The incidence of child neglect, child labour, and physically humiliating punishment at the community level has decreased according to community structures. This came after the project team developed PwV posters to instigate community dia

logues for religious and traditional leaders and other influential people discussion on equitable, gender-sensitive, positive parenting of girls and boys, and raising their awareness on child protection and child rights. The project reached 200 people (117 women, 83 men) overachieving the yearly target by 156% because the project team implemented the PwV model activity in target remote areas and deliberately wanted to reach more people with the messages.

The children's participation was promoted in adult-child interaction sessions where children were able to confidently engage with parents articulating their hopes, dreams, and expectations. Parent-child understanding, and relationship improved. In the community celebration sessions, children shared with parents and caregivers' information about their sessions including their rights, and future aspirations. The parents realized that PwV sessions positively improved the children's attitudes and behaviours, and how they see schools and their communities. Many of the parents made public pledges and promises to abandon physical and humiliating punishment of the children and strengthen communication and relationships among them. *"Thanks, SPL, for the positive parenting sessions. This day is an opportunity for us to discuss with our children and confidently share our experiences throughout the past sessions. This day also gives our children the belief that they are valued,"* **Faarah Abdi Salad from Alma'mun school in Mataban.**

From a gender perspective, 59% of the 2675 beneficiaries reached in this outcome were female while 41% were male, while 42% were children and 58% were adults. This shows that both genders were engaged in PwV

activities, although girls, mothers, and female caregivers have a higher margin (18%) over their counterparts. Girls were more than boys by 53% to 47% while the percentage of women to men was 69% to 31% of the total adult participants. In IDPs and rural community settings, female caregivers always take more responsibility for children's upbringing than male caregivers. Thus, they attend school and community engagement more. As part of the outcome, 32 community conversation sessions out of 34 target sessions were conducted in Hiran and Galgudud regions namely Sunlight, Dhagabadan, Abdiyow, Toowfiq in Galgudud Doomey, Bulshodeeq, ex-airport, and Sigalow school communities. The community has developed action plans and pledged to implement them after realizing that tradition and cultural practice were the roots of these issues.

To address these, the communities held public awareness campaigns and made public commitments and agreements to adopt constructive behavioural change. Five female FGM practitioners (four in Hiran and one in Galgudud) had abandoned the act and joined initiatives toward FGM eradication. 36 girls were saved from FGM, and 5 girls were saved from forced marriages because of the community conversation sessions across Galgadud and Hiran regions and school enrolment has increased, because of mass awareness conducted as part of the action plans.

The project reached out to traditional elders in IDPs and remote areas who initially opposed girls' education and now after attending community conversations, the same elders started advocating for girls' education and taking part in awareness campaigns in school enrolment as part of community action plans.



## **Outcome 2.2: Increased access to quality child protection services for boys and girls affected by or at risk of violence, abuse, neglect, and exploitation.**

To increase access to quality child protection services for those affected by violence or at risk of violence, abuse, neglect, and exploitation, the project recruited and trained case workers to support the daily case management process, provided case management support for children with protection concerns through direct and referral services.

The project strengthened 27 CWCs groups of 169 members (49M, 120F) for the provision, identification, and referral of child protection cases in the target areas, through training them with child rights, child abuse, and their responsibilities as community-based organizations, appointing training school-level child protection focal point personnel. The CWCs conducted monthly meetings and child protection awareness sessions, and identified, registered, referred, or attended 65 child protection cases against the yearly target of 57 overachieving by 14% due to their familiarity with CP concerns, relationships, and trust of the community in their specific locations.

The project provided material including stationery, and loudspeakers support to CWCs to mobilize communities and manage simple case management. In Mataban, the CWCs and the CP focal point persons managed to conduct public awareness about the risks of the presence of a military barrack near one of our project targets schools. CWCs talked to military officials about the safety of the school and the children, as some of the soldiers used to come into the school frequently. After the discussion, they moved to the other side of town.

Luckily, there were no child safeguarding incidents recorded and reported in that period, and the situation was handled by the community well. The project also trained child protection service providers including Local NGOs, CWCs, public hospitals, and local authorities on case management. This strengthened referral mechanisms to support children with protection concerns including disability. A total of 60 service providers against the yearly target of 32 were reached. The target was exceeded because of enough funding to finance, and the need to expand the referral mechanism observed by the project team. CWCs representatives and CP focal points conducted annual meetings where they shared experiences at the district level. This improved the collaboration between CWCs, project case workers, and service providers to provide timely responses to child protection cases. As a result of all these actions, a total of 441 cases (211 boys, 230 girls) were directly supported with the collaboration of recruited case workers, CWCs, and trained service providers overachieving the yearly target of 57 due to the increased need for case management support because of IDP influx due to the drought, and conflict in the target location.

The project has provided case management support to school-going children with protection concerns during this reporting year. The types of protection concerns included lack of schooling and sleeping materials, physical injuries, emotional abuse, and sexual abuse, normal sickness (most often through FGM). Most cases involved physical injuries caused by accidents in schools. There were instances of child neglect in which parents were unable to provide for their children's basic needs or afford to pay medical expenses. *"It was break time and I was playing with one of the playing materials in the school. I fell accidentally and*



*broke one of my arms. Thanks to SPL, I received medication. " Abukar, 11, a child who broke his arm while playing in the school playground. "We are four girls between the ages of 6 and 14. My father passed away and our mother struggles with the daily meal. We shared only two one-size mattresses, no mosquito net, and no bed sheet. Now I am happy because I will sleep comfortably on the mattress with no mosquito bites," Noorto Hassan, 14.*

### **Outcome 3.1: CSOs and child-led groups are strengthened to hold the duty bearer accountable for fulfilling children's rights:**

The project continued to strengthen child-centred social accountability mechanisms at the community level (output 3.1.2) by prioritizing Children and the CSO to hold the duty bearers accountable and to the access and the quality of the services delivered to the children. A total of 32 people (18F, 14M) from CSOs, children's groups, and local government officials were trained on social accountability meeting 100% of the yearly target. Then, 61 people (12 children, and 49 adults) were trained to become CCSA community facilitators of whom of them (6 Boys, 6 girls, 49 men, 21 females,) including Children's groups, CWC, and education officials assessed the quality of public services (education, health) using the score card - one of the social accountability tools. CSOs and children's groups gained skills, and knowledge to assess the quality of services for the children. This shaped their perception from merely service recipients without a say, to right-holders who can set indicators for the access and the quality of public services (education & health). With the support of the project team, community facilitators prepared a presentation on the findings of the assessment which was shared with government officials and service providers at the local level in the annual inter-face meetings on child rights issues (output 3.1.4). The level of children's participation in the process was fair. Constituting 26% of the total beneficiaries of output 3.1.2, they participated in all activities,

including the assessment in which they were both part of the facilitators, and members of the FGDs. The children's views were considered and captured well. The process also gave the community confidence for social accountability. *"From the day I learned social accountability tools and the process of holding accountable to service providers, I have gained confidence and deal with teachers on the education of my child"* **Hakimo, Doomey, Baledweyn.** The project conducted CSO Advocacy on Budget Increment on Child Protection, Education, and Health sector for Somali Children.

The core objective of this workshop was to bring together the ideas of advocacy on child protection and child rights as well as highlighted the need for government to invest in child protection and child rights issues as well building awareness and consensus among civil society actors to able having accountable with government institutions and putting pressure those institutions to allocate effective resources on child friend services and programs. Advocacy on budgeting had created an increase of budget increment to the line ministers directly providing children services. Children's issues on government offices have given special consideration to children's service. It has resulted in the CSOs to regularly advocating for children's issues both at the federal and state level. As part of the activities, the project also conducted CSOs annual consultations with communities to identify & advocate for key accountability issues. As a result of the consultation meeting, the coalition has planned to engage the government on issues of CAAFAG, the CSOs campaign for drafting the child rights bills, education for disability and street children, alternative care arrangements for children including save heaven and rehabilitation centres, implementation of disability acts and all other relating protocols. And lastly, Strengthened and supported the CSO coalitions to engage, advocate and influence government and communities on issues affecting children.

# NMFA SOM FF Drought Response Project.

## Introduction

The purpose of this report is to discuss the activities of the NMFA SOM FF Drought Response Project which was carried out by SPL and SCI with the budget provided by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Norwegian government. The project was implemented in Abudwak and Baladweyne for a period of four months from September to December 2022. The report will cover the activities undertaken, the results achieved, and the lessons learned during the implementation of the project.

## Project objective

The overall objective of the project is to scale up prevention and response of child protection and SGBV risks and violations in drought-affected areas.

The project reached 5856 beneficiaries of whom 985 were children (406 boys, 579 girls), and were adults 4871(1258 Men, 3613 women). During that four-month period, the project raised awareness about the tracing and reunification of unaccompanied minors for 780 people; using the CPIMS (child protection information management system) systems traced and reunified with their families of 296 children; 91 people were trained as foster care mothers, 17 SPL staff in Baledweyn and Abudwak from NORAD, Drought emergency response and CHANGE were trained on GBV, Case management, CPIMS, FTR; 760 people received awareness about GBV, its causes and how to prevent it; 200 girls and women received GBV awareness; the knowledge of 60 people from gender-based violence service providers were raised and trained on GBV; 1645 people received awareness raising series on child labor and child rights; 520 people selected from IDP camps discussed the problems of child labor and how to resolve it; SPL bought and handed over drugs to

the public hospitals in Abudwak and Baladweyne to give to people who are victims of rape; 60 health staff received training on clinical management of rape and sexual and reproductive health in the cities of Abudwak and Baladweyne; purchased and distributed NFIs for 960 newly internally displaced people in Abudwak and Baledweyne through selected supplier using the CPIMS systems for the management of cases; 1150 people with disabilities received awareness about GBV and 46 disabled children received material support.

## Assessment of New IDPs

To understand the situation of IDPs better, SPL staff conducted field assessment in Baledweyne and Abudwak on 1316 September 2022. The assessment targeted NORAD supported schools and their communities by interviewing members of the IDP community, host community, community structures including Community Education Committee, Child Welfare Committee and school administrators. The ongoing hostilities between al Shabaab and Federal government and allies (ATMIS and clan militias) in Hiiraan region and the four-year-old drought has driven hundreds of families to move urban areas including Baledweyn and Abudwak in search for safety and livelihood after they have lost their animals or forced to leave by the insurgents. To understand better the new IDPs locations, number, living conditions and protection issues, the SPL team visited different IDPs camps and schools in Baledweyn and Abudwak and interviewed members of the IDP community, host community, Community Education Committee, Child Welfare Committee and school administrators. The new IDPs in Baledweyn mostly fled from villages and rural areas under Baledweyn district while others come from Bakol region and Somali region in Ethiopia.

The newly displacement was caused by the ongoing clan conflicts and drought that affected both people and their livestock. Majority of them (90%) are women and children while men/fathers are left behind villages. There are some orphan children who lost their parents in the conflicts, these people lived with families/relatives in the IDPs camps as they yet to have any support from the aid organization. Thirteen (13) IDP camps were identified and selected as the project target camps – six in Baladweyne (Tawakal Siigaalow, Bader, Ex-airport, Doomey, Teedaan, and Halliye) and seven in Abudwak (Dayacan, Qalanqale, Tawakal, Zamzam, Alla-Amin, Landheere & Garasle).

The reasons of displacement and the areas they come from were also recognized. The protection needs of the new IDPs were found and understood. We learned that IDPs are mostly women and children, and men were left behind to look after the remaining animals or to take part war against AS. It was also learned that many people in Baledweyn and Abudwak have displaced from Somali Region in Ethiopia as the two towns have border with that Somali region. It was discovered that IDPs were arriving daily due to hostilities especially in the east of Baledweyn and severe drought. Child protection and GBV issues identified among these communities included: child labor, CEFM, Rape and attempt rape, intimate partner violence, family separation, lack of basic household items like bedding, and sanitary material. In Abudwak, the newly displaced people came from villages under the regions of Dolo and Qorahey in the Somali regional state of Ethiopia.

### **Implemented activities.**

To realize the objective of the project, the project team carried out following activities,

including 1) tracing and reunification of unaccompanied minors, 2) expanding GBV prevention and emergency response services – mobile service fairs in IDPs, GBV desk, 3) scaling up community awareness and dialogues on Child Labor and expand child friendly safe places 4) Provision of clinical management of rape (CMR) and Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH) services. and Support GBV one-stop centers 5) Provision of NFIs such as dignity kits, reusable sanitary pads, and safe inclusive lanterns and 6) Reaching more people with disabilities with GBV services and information.

Through these activities a total beneficiary of 5,856 were reached of whom 4,871 (1,258M, 3,613F) were adults, and 985 (406M, 579F) were children. During that four-month period, the project raised awareness about the tracing and reunification of unaccompanied minors for 780 people; using the CPIMS (child protection information management system) systems traced and reunified with their families of 296 children; 91 people were trained as foster care mothers, 17 SPL staff in Baledweyn and Abudwak from NORAD, Drought emergency response and CHANGE were trained on GBV, Case management, CPIMS, FTR; 760 people received awareness about GBV, its causes and how to prevent it; 200 girls and women received GBV awareness; the knowledge of 60 people from gender-based violence service providers were raised and trained on GBV; 1645 people received awareness raising series on child labor and child rights; 520 people selected from IDP camps discussed the problems of child labor and how to resolve it; SPL bought and handed over drugs to the public hospitals in Abudwak and Baladweyne to give to people who are victims of rape; 60 health staff received training on clinical management of rape and 46 disabled children received material support.

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### The Project outcomes.

- The IDPs become aware of how to stop missing children by teaching children about their families and their identities and who they can get help from if children go missing. This improved the relationship between the community and SPL caseworkers. Because of awareness raising sessions, there has been an increase in cases of children not living with their parents reported by the community.
- According to those who received the foster care mother training, there was a change in the way they treated the children compared to those who did not receive the training.
- Almost 17 SPL staff were equipped knowledge and skills on case management, GBV forms and root causes, CPIMS+ online tools. Case workers provided skills on managing child protection cases. The trained staff become aware of protection issues.
- IDPs have acquired strategies and skills to prevent gender-based violence and to report it if it occurs. Members of the community claim that because of the widespread awareness, child labor is less common, and parents are starting to send their kids to school.

### Lessons learnt.

- We discovered that rural people have strong cultural norms of keeping family matters and harms caused by males to their partners hidden, and that long-term awareness-raising campaigns are necessary to change their views and behaviors regarding gender-based violence.

- The Participants recognized that young girls are more susceptible to GBV incidents, and They came to the realization that detrimental cultural practices affect women since they were unable to discuss issues they had with their spouses and rural community still uphold the negative cultural norms against women, depriving them of all their rights Girls stop attending school because of their parents' arranged marriages or the excessive housework that takes up most of their time while their parents are at work and are unable to hire a housekeeper.
- Most people do not know the work done by children at home as child labor. They think that the work children do and get money from is child labor, while discrimination against the disabled persons and early marriage for the teenage girls is on increase while parents force them to marry to adult or elderly man for some incentives.

### Recommendations

- It was recommended, to end the harmful cultural practices that rural males utilize on their wives and other female relatives, long-term awareness and training on GBV are required.
- The local government should stop the importation of dangerous narcotics like alcohol and others since young males who use them often mistreat the public, particularly women and girls.
- The number of men attending GBV awareness events should rise to address and debate the detrimental effects that harmful cultural practices have on their wives and other females.



# Integrated Emergency Food and Child Protection Assistance to Multiple Shocks-Affected Communities In Abudwak, Galgaduud region

This is an integrated child protection and Livelihood project supporting vulnerable families in drought, locust invasion, covid-19 and conflicted affected internal displaced persons and host communities in Abudwak district. The project is funded by MFA Finland through Save the Children International. Somali Peace Line implemented the Child Protection component.

Somali Peace Line has been focusing on outcome two and outcome three, which are:

*Outcome 2; Result 2: Girls and boys including children with disabilities are better protected in families and their communities through child protection prevention and response actions*

## Activities and strategies

To attain these outcomes, the project worked with communities, CSOs, local governments, and parents.

It has employed specific strategies including working with child welfare committees in schools and communities, such as training these structures on child rights and protection, provided dignity kits to vulnerable adolescent girls and boys in the IDP camps in Abudwak district; conducted mass awareness sessions and community dialogue sessions on equitable, gender-sensitive, positive parenting of girls and boys, religious and traditional leaders and other influential groups/persons in the community in Abudwak.

The project reached a total of 3,935 beneficiaries of whom 1,815 were children (1112 girls, 703 boys) and 2,120 were adults (830 men and 1,290 women). 54% adults, 46% children, 22% adults and children with disabilities, 82% IDPs, and 18% host community. The project also reached around 7,100 people about 4% of the total population through media outreach.





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A total of 20 facilitators and mentors (12 male and 8 female) were given PwV training to facilitate children and caregivers' sessions at community level. Trained facilitators delivered 10 PwV session for the 100 parents/caregivers (35 male, 65 female) and 9 structured creative sessions for 100 children (50 boys, 50 girls). After completing nine sessions, the children had improved respectful communication and collaborative problem solving. Children have learnt ways of expressing their feelings and exploring friends' support. Children improve their relationship with their parents. Improved relationships between par-

ents/caregivers and their children have been observed. Parents/caregivers have been educated with the risk children may face and how to detect if they are abused or in distress. The communication between parents/caregivers, their children and spouses has been improved. Parents learnt non-violent ways of solving conflicts with their children.

The project provided direct case management support to 665 children with protection concerns in Abudwak district. A total of 278 children (125 Boys and 153 girls) across the district have been identified, registered, and provided medical and material support to address the protection problems identified. Most of these

children came from IDP camps, but there were some from vulnerable the host communities as well. The type of protection concern that the children were facing include physical injuries, negligent, denial of basic rights/services, emotional stress resulting from peer bullying, and child labour. A total 110 children (51 boys and 59 girls) received PSS sessions to help them cope the stress positively and share time and happiness with their peers. It was targeted to children with huge edges of psychological disadvantages. The PSS session for improved children's emotions wellbeing, empathy, make decisions, and enabled them to build healthy relationships. A total 277 children (107 girls and 170 boys) children had received PFA, and other indirect referrals given SPL case workers, and trained community structure members to improve their lives.

The project provided dignity kits to vulnerable adolescent girls and boys in the IDP camps in Abudwak district. A total of 900 children (250 boys and 650 girls) who were selected from that IDP camps received dignity kits such as Shirts, Trouser, Shampoo, hair oil, Mosquito net, Soap for the boys. While the girls received, top, shawl, Always/hygiene pad, Shampoo, provided boosted their morale.

The project had conducted Support peer support groups for parents/-caregivers with disabilities and of children with disabilities to support in parenting and to increase social interaction. A total of 150 beneficiaries have been reached in this activity whereby, 49 were children (22 boys and 27 girls) and 101 adults ( 35 male, 66 female). All of the beneficiaries were persons living with disabilities.

Finally, the project has conducted

mass awareness/sensitization sessions on child rights, risks of child labour and forced recruitment, reporting and referral of child protection and GBV cases, with emphasis on reducing the vulnerability of girls, boys, and women.

The activity was benefited by a total of 2000 persons (783 male and 1217 female). One radio/TV debate was produced and aired on Soyal TV and radio on child right, Child protection, forced recruitment of children and violence against women. The debate was participated by a religious leader, a teacher, a local authority representative and a youth representative. The estimated population of the district is 179,424 people, with 173,224 host community, and 6,200 IDPs population according district governance profile <https://youtu.be/7thrll0lxmU>

# Challenging Harmful Attitudes and Norms for Gender Equality and Empowerment in Somalia

## CHANGES 2 Project 2022 – 2024

### Introduction

Somali Peace Line in partnership with Save the Children International in Somalia is implementing a 4-year initiative funded by the GAC and Royal Norwegian Embassy (RNE). Challenging Harmful

Attitudes and Norms for Gender Equality and Empowerment in Somalia (CHANGES 2) Project explore to capitalize on the initial gains made and continue to reduce harmful practices and promote

gender equality in target communities for the past four years. The project will build upon the previous CHANGES program funded by the DFID and Royal Norwegian Embassy (RNE). CHANGES 2 has been designed and will be delivered, in collaboration with the government of Somalia; building upon the significant successes and lessons of the existing CHANGES project, which leverages the unique value of all three implementing agencies along with a network of local partners, including women's rights organizations (WROs).

The project ultimate outcome will be achieved through four intermediate outcomes:

- Decreased discriminatory social norms and practices that perpetuate and validate sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) against women and girls- both very young adolescents aged 10-14 (VYA) and older adolescents aged 15-19 (OA), including female genital mutilation/cutting (FGM/C) and child, early and forced marriage (CEFM);
- Increased voice and agency of VYA and OA girls and economic em

powerment of women in Somalia to make and act on life decisions for themselves, including with regards to sexual reproductive health and rights (SRHR) and GBV.

- Enhanced enabling environment (media, policy and civic engagement) that supports gender equality (GE) and women and girls' rights.
- Enhanced social and economic empowerment of women to have greater household and community involvement and voice in decision making

Each of the above four intermediates has four immediate outcomes, and Somali Peace Line has worked on three immediate outcomes under intermediate outcomes 1 and 4.

### Target Groups

Parents, Women, very young adolescents aged 10-14 (VYA) and older adolescents aged 15-19 (OA), caregivers, community leaders and stakeholders, Media groups ,civil society organizations (CSOs) including WROs and duty bearers including local Authorities, state governments and national governments. The project will work in 14 target locations in Adado, Dusamareb, Baledweyn and Baidoa.

### Activities and strategies

To contribute the project outcomes, the project formed child right clubs, trained 28 CHOICE facilitators who have successfully facilitate 10 sessions for each of the 14 CHOICE groups. The project also formed 14 women only VSLA groups from the

caregivers of the children in CHOICE groups, and successfully finished seven module training for them. The project also facilitated Gender series Discussion for the spouses

**Outcome 1110: Improved knowledge and attitudes of VYA and OA girls and boys (10-19) towards positive social norms in favour of GE (including CEFM andFGMC)**

Under this outcome, the project mapped existing girls' and boys' school and community-based clubs in Adado Beletweyn, Dusamareb and Baidoa to identify existing clubs, assess the available and suitable locations in the community and schools to implement clubs' activities.

The project established sixteen community and school-based clubs of adolescent girls and boys aged 10-14 and 15-19 years and they were enrolled as CHIOCE and CHIOCE+ participants. The project empowered boys and girls a total of 280 children (140 girls and 140 boys) through CHOICES curriculum program in all four districts of Beletwein, Adaado, Dusamareb and Baido delivered by 28 (14Femela 14Males) trained facilitators. Both in school and out of school have participated the

sessions. The CHOICES Curriculum aims at changing attitudes and behaviours of very young adolescents (aged 10-14) at home particularly around shared household responsibilities and more gender equitable behaviours.

**Outcome 1120: Improved knowledge and attitudes of female and male caregivers and community members towards positive social norms in favor of GE (including CEFM and FGMC)**

Under this outcome, the project developed referral pathways for adolescent girls and boys who require child protection and SGBV services, including SRH, and GBV through a meeting attended by 30 participants (11 female and 19 male) from the various sectors of SGBV service providers both national and international organization, representatives from local governments and community structures including a representative from the youth and community leaders; trained 20 participants (11 female and 9male) from CHOICE curriculum Facilitator and Representatives from



the community on mapped and developed referral pathways by the field project staff in Adaado and Beletwein; then project supported 14 referrals cases (10 children and 4 adults) in Beledwein, Baidoa, and Adado districts. The cases included FGM, Rape, Attempted Rape, physical Assault, and physical injuries. The project provided them with medical and psychosocial support. The project facilitated two quarterly coordination meetings at district level's for The project provided capacity building training on the issues of GBV prevention, protection and referral mechanisms (including CEFM and FGMC) to community dialogue groups who were mainly female male care givers and community members drawn from the target intervention village for all the districts Adaado, Dusamareb, Beletwein and Biadoa). The main aim of the training was to equip the dialogue groups with the knowledge and the concept of GBV particularly FGM and CEFM and the risk associated, effects of FGM and CEFM on physical, emotional, and social aspect of the survivor. The project staff in collaboration with 10 members selected

trained community dialogue from each target community per location engaged action plan development on how to strengthen referral mechanisms and community mobilization to prevent GBV FGM/CEFM. Action plans developed included:

1. Organizing sessions with school teachers so that they can pass the information to students.
2. Conduct awareness campaign at the men gathering places.
3. Engaging with the religious leaders so that they can talk to public at the mosques.
4. Develop FGM/CEFM messages, referral pathways and response mechanism hence writing those messages on stickers and billboards.
5. Conducting Community awareness on the impact SGBV and referral pathway with community at IDP centers
6. Training for TBA who usually do FGM on the negative side effect of the practice and teaching them the religious point of view.

**Outcome 1130: Improved commitment of community influencers (including religious/traditional leaders)**

to promote positive social norms in favor of gender equality (including CEFM and FGMC) Under this outcome, the project conducted sensitized community influencers including religious and community leaders, teachers, youth leaders, female activist and women groups in HirShabelle and Galmudug on FGM and CEFM messaging to enable them deliver uniformed messages in their advocacy. Then, the project team conducted a one-day session per Area to develop key action plans with community influencers on messaging on gender equality, positive social norms and CEFM/FGMC prevention. Then, community influencers implemented action plans to deliver messages in all 14 target villages/IDPs camps. These action plans were in the form of community awareness raising, lectures, talk shows, and dialogues with the purpose informing the negative effect of increasing IPV and FGM/early marriage to young girls, promote gender equality, positive social norms, and prevention mechanisms. The project also organized dialogue session with male and female progressive and conservative religious

leaders separately. The religious perspective of harmful social norms against vulnerable groups such as women, girls, and children were discussed. Power imbalances between men and women because of cultural practices, male attitudes of disrespect towards women, a lack of respect for human rights regarding women and girls, a misconception of women's rights in Islam, and cultural and traditional beliefs that segregate and discriminate women were identified as the main causes by religious leaders. The religious leaders promised to advocate for granting the rights of women as per Islamic teaching and removing all obstacles that promote women discrimination. The imams promised to raise public awareness about the effects of FGM/CEFM and GBV in their respective mosques during Friday prayers.

**Outcome 1210: Improved knowledge of VYA (10–14 years) and OA (15–19 years) girls and boys on ASRHR, SGBV and life skills.**

The project mapped and trained child protection and SGBV service providers that exist in target areas to Revise/develop referral pathways for

adolescent girls and boys who require child protection and SGBV services, including SRH GBV. The service providers included both national and international organization, representatives from local governments and community structures including a representative from the youth and community leaders. The project also trained 20 participants (11 female and 9 male) including CHOICE curriculum facilitator and representatives on mapped and developed referral pathways by the field project staff. Linkage between facilitators, service providers and community structures will be developed. This training equipped the choice curriculum facilitators with the knowledge of the referral pathways, overview of GBV cases to be referred in relation to where and when to do these referrals. The project facilitated six monthly GBV working group coordination meetings in Four time Beletwein and twice Adaado districts for the organizations that offer child protection and GBV services to the survivors to discuss the GBV issues in the region, effective use of referral pathways and if there are other problems that are existing in the region. The GBV

working group members gave updates to the activities they have done that focused on GBV. With the support of the CHANGEs funding, a total of 50 referrals who needed medical, and psychosocial have been made for both adults and young children in Beletwein, Adaado and Baidoa districts. Among these were; Four physically assault case of (3 boys and 1 girl) of young adolescents aged (11, 12, 13 and 14) years who were members of choice clubs, Nine domestic violence (IPV) cases of women aged between (30 to 40) years who suffered physical injuries after they been assaulted by their husbands, Seven rape cases of ten women aged between 30 to 40 years, Eleven Defilements cases of children (10 girls and 1 boy) aged between 3, 7, 10, 12, 14 and 18 among these are 3 year old girl who was raped by 60 years old man who is close relative to the child. There were 4 attempt rape cases for young girl aged 11 and three women aged between (25 and 40) years; 15 FGM cases for young girls aged between (7 to 9) years, three infants who sustained severe injuries after they were burnt and one force marriage case of

young girl aged 14. All these cases were given psychosocial support and medical referral in Adaado General hospital, Gargaar Hospital in Beletwein and Akhuuna medical centre in Baidoa, legal referrals were also given to those who required to one case. One arrest has been made in Adaado for rape case of 14 years girl though the suspect denied thus, the families settled the case under Sharia law.

The project team identified and trained thirty-eight females drawn from the 8-intervention location from old districts (4 Adaado and Beletwein) on Girl-Shine model to become mentors and facilitators for 160 girls from 10- 19 years old. The 16 of the trained facilitators and mentors were selected to deliver The Girl shine life skills Curriculum aimed at building upon the potential and power of girls, supporting them to be the drivers of their lives and futures. It seeks to support, protect, and empower very young and older adolescent girls VYA (10-14) and (15-19) years in humanitarian settings. The model helped girls' capacity improve prevention and response to violence against adolescent girls in hu

manitarian settings by providing them with skills and knowledge to identify types of GBV, their safe space and seek support services if they experience or are at risk of SGBV. The model also enabled young girls understand the changing biological pheromones of their bodies and become familiar those changes. Likewise, the project identified, trained 28 trained male facilitators on the adapted boy's curriculum, 16 of them were selected to deliver the model to 160 boys between the ages of 10 – 19 years in the target communities in Adado and Baledwein in the next year 2023.

### **Outcome 1220: Improved knowledge of VYA and OA girls to lead advocacy initiatives in their respective communities on GE and girls' rights**

Project staff through use of set of criteria identified 60 members from WROs/GROs and female influencers at the local level hence conducted three days training for selected members in Adaado and Beletwein district on gender equality, positive social norms, ASRHR and SGBV (including CEFM and FGMC) and to im



prove their knowledge and capacity gender empowerment program at community level. The training empowered them with knowledge about gender equality & women empowerment, and built their skills to effectively incorporating positive social norm and gender empowerment in their programming issues and their organizational culture thus, engage with the community and policy makers to promote a better understanding of positive social norms and women empowerment and means of enhancing ASRHR for adolescent girls.

**Outcome 1310: Improved knowledge of WROs to influence and hold federal and regional governments accountable for the adoption and implementation of gender equality laws.**

The project delivered capacity building to selected women's and girls' rights groups to advocate for the adoption of gender equality laws and hold governments accountable on existing laws and commitments. Sixty-four members (50 female, 14 male) drawn from local women Groups, women right organizations, and line ministries in Adaado and Beletwein District were trained on advocacy and accountability; adoption processes of laws; existing gender equality laws and

commitments. Then, the project mapped out stakeholders including CSOs, government officials and law enforcement institutions. In this exercise, 100 people from state, regional and district authorities were reached. The focus was institutions that has influence in development and implementation of Gender equality laws and policies at state and district levels. The project developed two actions plans with Sixty participants from WROs in Beledweyn and Adado to engage in a national campaign advocate for the adoption and implementation of gender equality laws. Participants agreed to organized forums discussions among religious leaders and other stakeholders including WRO representatives, health professionals, and policy makers. The media will be used for more reach out. And later the local media house will make talk shows inviting reputed religious leaders and advocates. They also agree to hold debates and community awareness on FGM at community level. These actions will be implemented in following year (2023).

### **Outcome 1410: Increased economic status and income generation capacity of women.**

Under this outcome the project conducted sensitization the community and conduct VSLAs start-up meetings with community members reaching a total beneficiary of 210 participants (94 male and 116 female) from the fourteen target intervention villages in Adaado and Beletweyn and Dusa-mareb and Baidoa introducing the communities how the components of EA\$E model works, and that when the Gender Discussion Series between female VSLA members and male household members, and business training will follow. The project then formed 14 VSLA groups of 20 members each, who were capacitated with VSLA methodology through undergoing seven module training which include association formation including how to draft their constitutions, how to conduct regular meetings and document, how to make and document savings and social fund contributions, how to take loans and register, how to return loans, and

to account for shares and make share outs. The groups have been making savings for three months now. The project then training 28 facilitators on how to conduct Gender discussion series, and then held sensitization sessions for male household members on the gender discussion group series to introduce the concept to the male household members and explain the benefits of this components for the success of the VSLA model. After securing their consent, the trained facilitators started to conduct Gender Discussion Series where women in VSLAs and their spouses or male household figures would attend same sessions discussion on topic like introduction go GDS, household economy, household cash flow, setting financial goals, understanding Needs Vs Wants, conflict resolutions ie. The aim is to prevent any misunderstanding, or conflict that VSLA might raise in the household that could potentially instigate GBV incidents. So far, the project has conducted four sessions for each VSLA group and male household members. As a result of the VSLA exercise,

*a total of \$ 21,952 savings has been accumulated in 4 District; Social fund contribution of \$2,287 were accumulated, while \$1520 have been used to assist individuals who were eligible to get social fund. Loan repayment of \$3362 were made, while outstanding loan due amounting to 883 is expected soon. One group in Dusamareb raised a special social contribution amounting to \$100 to people affected by the drought arriving in their camp. 40 mothers who took advantage of the loans established small businesses, while 28 members top up for their existing business, 5 other paid their children schools across all 4 districts. About 91 mothers who faced different challenges like loss of their family members, those who unable to pay saving, loss of property, mother who give birth, etc.*

# STAF CAPACITY BUILDING

## Onboarding MEL workshop:

SPL Research assistant, Asiya and SPL M&E officer, Asha, took an online Onboarding MEL workshop from TEF. This workshop was about how to use MIROBOARD to develop "ambition statements" about what we hope to achieve through our projects in relation to five key areas: People and Relationships, Capacities, Knowledge, Outputs and Sharing, and Outcomes and Legacies. It is an expectation for all TEF-funded projects, and it was an essential skill that helped my project to go in smoothly.

## Online mobile filmmaking and storyboarding training:

Online mobile filmmaking and storyboarding workshop from TEF mojo training was attended by Asiya, SPL research assistant, and Isma' el Muse SPL Communications intern. The training gave the team crucial skill for in storytelling and storyboarding skills. It will help SPL research project to identify the importance of TVET by making a short film.

## Data Visualization:

Asiya, SPL research Assistant took an offline Data Visualization and Budget reporting workshop from Jaantus organization in Mogadishu. The workshop was about how to disseminate data into graphical form, and the main takeaway was how to interrogate data quality and validate and verify its integrity. Also, how to clean raw data into valuable data. She learned two helpful pieces of software for data visualization. She produced two graphs about Somali Federal Government Budget from 2018-2021 and Somali Federal Government Budget growth for the last three years. As practice, she plans to produce an article about the Comparison of the budget growth of MoH over the previous five years and the service provided to its community. This training has sharpened her research presentation skills.

PWV ToT: From 29th May to 2nd of June 2022, SPL child protection officer of MFA project received PWV training organized and designed for partner staff by SCI in Hargeisa. The objective of the training was to first train staff and then further train schoolteachers to facilitate lessons for parents and children. The training covered the whole approach module which encompasses sessions for the children, session for the parents and jointly interaction session. SPL Protection officer cascaded down the approach by training community mentors and facilitators to apply to the target beneficiaries in Abudwak. Transitional Justice Policy: From 4th to 6th July 2022, Hassan, SPL peacebuilding manager attended first session of the Capacity Building Training program on the African Union

Transitional Justice Policy (AUTJP). The training program is jointly implemented by the Life & Peace Institute (LPI), Center for the Study of Violence and Reconciliation (CSV) and Institute for Justice and Reconciliation

ation (IJR) virtually and face-to-face. This training program has five sessions which are: Introduction to Transitional Justice; Examining and understanding the AUTJP; A bottom-up approach to TJ Mechanisms: Emphasis on Local and traditional methods; Creating inclusive spaces for youth and women in TJ Processes; and TJ in Practice: The Role of Key Actors in the Implementation of the AUTJP. The last session of the training is scheduled to take place in May 2023.

Girl Shine & CEFE ToT training: From 13th – 30th December 2022, two CHANGE 2 project staff received CEFE training in Hargies. The training is part of VSAL model and is intended to give VSLA member the necessary business skills to run business after the share out of VSLA Savings. SPL program manager, and CHANGE project coordinator received trainings Girl Shine ToT training in Garowe. The purpose of the trainings was to introduce the models to staff of new implementing partners consortium staff as it

was a new model to the project. During the training, the participant contextualized the content of the model and discussed its implementation model. The trained ToTs will deliver the same training to facilitators and mentors in the field who will apply the model to the target children. GBV and safeguarding training: On 6th and 7th of July 2022, MFA project staff and CHANGE project assistant in Baidoa, participated two days training on GBV and safeguarding. The training covered following topics: What gender, Gender equality and equity, Gender based violence, Types of GBV violence, Myths and reality of GBV, Guiding principles for working with Survivors, Survivor-centered Approach, the referrals, referral pathway. The training was significant to the program staff because their projects deal with GBV cases and the referrals it also helped them in understanding better the gender equity and equality and different forms of GBV cases.



## SUCCESS STORY

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### **Community Conversation Sessions Changed Mohamed from critic to advocate of Girls' Education.**

Education for girls is not seen as an important step towards community prospect across central Somali including Baletwein where Mohamed resides. Mohamed Mohamed Ibrahim is 3-year-old, clan elder and a father of 8 children. He resides in Baledwein together with his wife and his children. He has four boys and four girls. Among them, only two children have not reached school age. Remarkably, only three of his boys used to go to school despite having two girls who reached school age. He never attended any training or awareness conducting by any NGO in the district and believed that girls' education is useless and a waste of money and resources. He believed that a girl would bring to you shame if she is not married and school is a place of exploiting girls.

On the other hand, his wife Ebla was a community leader and a mother who advocates eradication of stereotypes and education biases. This family used to have an argument on the matter of their girls not going to school. In early June 2020, SPL conducted awareness and CC in their respective location. Ebla was a member of participants who were attending the community conversation sessions organized by SPL and SCI under NORAD project and she shared the issue of her husband and two girls with the group including the facilitators. She was recommended to bring him to attend the sessions at any cost. Ebla was successful to bring Mohamed (her husband) to attend the sessions. As the sessions continued, Mohamed gradually changed his mind and after completing the whole community conversation sessions, Mohamed has totally changed his perception towards educational stereotypes and enrolled his two girls to school.

The clan elder whom people knew for his aggressiveness when it comes to girls' education has now made total turnaround of his behaviours and has come over community stereotypes about girls' education. Therefore, it is worth mentioning that Mohamed who is known for his creativity of poetry and drama started to use his own initiatives to conduct awareness about the importance of girl's education through drama. In his poetry he involved different parts of the community I,e women, girls, boys, elders and many other important figures in the community. His story and play is published in the social media where several others viewed. As a result of this, Mohamed's girls have been enrolled to school and are doing great.

# ACHIEVEMENTS & CHALLENGES

1. Youth advocacy priorities towards peacebuilding identified and developed into plans.

2. The program enhanced interaction between youth and other stakeholders ie police, local administrations and elders in Baidoa, Abudwak, and Jowhar

3. The program empowered youth to act intervening local conflicts, i.e youth in Abudwak engaged with elders, security sector, and local administration to stop revenge killing that started between to sub-clans in the district. They also made peace awareness through the radio with not financial support from the program.

4. As part of youth advocacy towards improvement of the security in Abudwak, Local Police established hotline which members of the community call freely to report insecurity incidents to pre-empt them.

5. The program empowered youth take bold steps in times of crisis, i.e youth in Jowhar organized themselves to repond to acute watery diarrhea (AWD) that hit in villages along the river with sanitary material and awareness raising.

6. The project increased the number of youth and women aspiring to hold leadership positions. Specifically, youth of both genders ran for federal MPs in Jowhar and Baidoa. One SD youth participant, and one SPL staff from Baidoa become federal; one youth male became district commissioner in Abudwak; and many others became civil servants and youth leaders in their respective areas,

working at HirShabele, SW, and local authorities.

7. Gender-based violence and negative cultural norms were reduced thanks to community champions training in sexual and gender-based violence, FGM, and CEFM. These champions raised community knowledge of GBV, FGM, and CEFM, as well as the impact and repercussions of these practices, to promote gender equality and the abolition of social norms and practices.

8. Community Conversation Meetings developed relationships between government officials and community leaders. This has benefited children since residents now have easier access to government officials, especially law enforcement officers, who can help with child safety issues.

9. The program improved community-based child protection procedures to prevent and respond to all types of child abuse and violations.

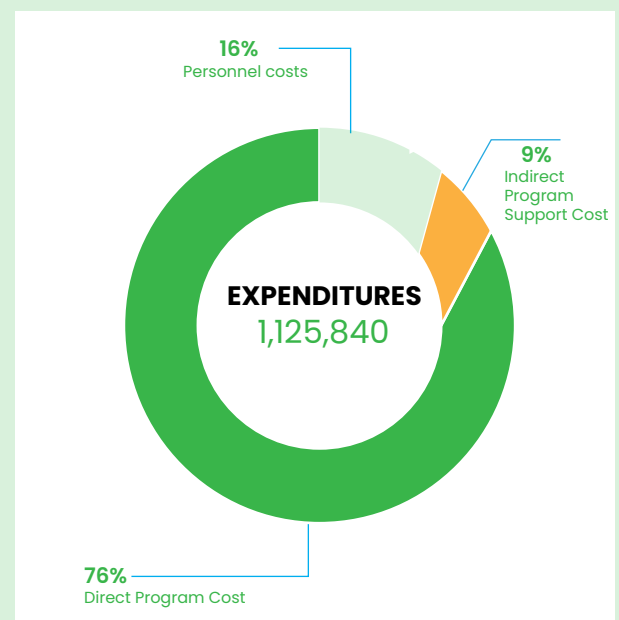
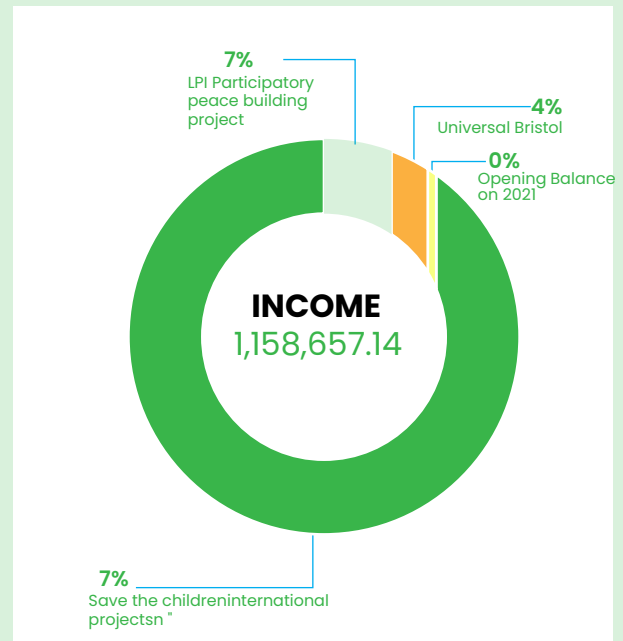
10. Community Structures are very voluntarily engage referring the children to service providers and established roles and responsibilities to respond to occurrences of abuse in cooperation with child protection service providers and law enforcement authorities.

## CHALLENGES

- **Delay** in signing SGA, hence delayed in activity implementations.
- **Limited budget** allocation for project monitoring sites
- The **high expectation** among the community member attending community conversation sessions.

# ANNUAL PROGRAM INCOME & EXPENDITURES INTRODUCTION IN 2022

Somali Peace Line managed a total fund of **1,158,657.14 USD**. The funding came from international donors, Like the SIDA, UN Peace-building Fund, MFA Finland, and NORAD, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Norway, which channeled the funding through international NGOs co-implementing projects with Somali Peace Line namely, SCI, and LPI. Of the total program income, **1,125,839.99 USD** was utilized, and **32,817.15 USD** become the closing balance of the year.



## WHO ARE WE?

SPL is a non-profit and non-governmental local organization, established to contribute towards bringing lasting and sustainable peace, advocate for human rights of disadvantaged groups, capacity building, social harmony, and good governance. Somali Peace Line was founded in 1995, following the second International Congress of Somali Studies in Paris, France that looked at the "Culture of Peace in Somalia. This is a five-year strategic plan for Somalia Peace Line (SPL) for the period 2020-2024. The plan is informed both by SPL's vision, mission, and values and its strategic intent to continue serving the communities.

### SPL VISION

A stable Somalia in which all its citizens exercise their rights and resolve their conflicts peacefully

### SPL MISSION

Committed to promoting mechanisms for sustainable peace and enjoyment of rights by all.

## STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

SPL has defined its strategic focus by clarifying its mandate and making a thorough analysis of its external and internal environments. To maximize the impact of its work on the Somali society, SPL will, over the coming five years, focus on delivering the following strategic objectives (SO):

**To develop conducive and mutual collaborations with the Government at central and state levels as well as other non-governmental organizations in the sector of peacebuilding and conflict transformation. to achieve this objective SPL will pursue the following strategies-**

- ✓ Create a culture of mutual trust and respect.
- ✓ Improve the capacity of the government to implement law and order.
- ✓ Cooperate with the government to influence policy development and implementation.
- ✓ Cooperate, network, and partner with non-governmental organizations focused on peacebuilding, conflict transformation, and social harmony.

**To diversify and grow SPL financial and other resources. To achieve this strategic objective of SPL will conduct the following strategies-**

- ✓ Develop resource mobilization capabilities.
- ✓ Maximize SPL's visibility in the funding and resource-sourcing space.
- ✓ Diversify Funding and sourcing of resources.
- ✓ Safeguard the resources raised.

**To maximize community impact and outreach. To achieve this strategic objective SPL will conduct the following strategies-**

- ✓ Develop resource mobilization capabilities
- ✓ Maximize SPL's visibility in the funding and resource-sourcing space
- ✓ Diversify Funding and sourcing of resources
- ✓ Safeguard the resources raised

**To improve the vision-based Research in SPL. To achieve this strategic objective SPL will conduct the following strategies-**

- ✓ Develop and equip a fully ledged Research function in SPL
- ✓ Transform SPL documents and achievements into Publications
- ✓ Attract renowned guest speakers to give SPL mission-centered talks

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