



# QUARTERLY REPORT

**Reporting organization:** NAFIS Network

**Reporting period:** July-September 2023

## PROJECT ACTIVITIES

Output 1.1: CSOs and WROs (here: CLAs) working to end VAWG have mechanisms to continue their efforts during crises.

During this quarter, the project has been conducted number of activities who are under the plan of this quarter including:

### **Activity 1.1.4. Training CSOs and WROs in advocacy, social accountability, and community engagement on VAWG prevention (Burao, Somaliland)**

In this quarter, NAFIS Network embarked on a crucial initiative to strengthen local organizations' capacity to combat Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) in Burao, Somaliland. This endeavor brought together a diverse cohort of passionate and dedicated individuals representing Women's Rights Organizations (WROs) and Civil Society Organizations (CSOs). The training program, titled "Building Capacities of CSO and WRO in Burao for Advocacy, Social Accountability, and Community Engagement for the VAWG," and was strategically designed to address the multifaceted challenges VAWG poses in this region.

The objective of the training was to give some knowledge on how CSOs and WROS/CLAs may do advocacy, social accountability, and community engagement on VAWG prevention. 15 CSOs and 30 WROs/CLAs have participated in the training. The training has undertaken presentations which's focusing on the topics, practical groups who may discuss their understanding of the topic with open questions.

The training program served as a beacon of hope and empowerment for the women participating in it, and it unfolded against the backdrop of Burao, a vibrant and resilient community eager to make a transformative change. The training venue, carefully selected to accommodate the participants' needs, provided a conducive environment for learning and collaboration. Over the course of the program, attendees engaged in dynamic discussions, practical exercises, and interactive sessions that aimed to equip them with the knowledge, skills, and strategies required to advocate for the prevention and elimination of VAWG effectively.

The significance of this training program cannot be overstated, as it symbolized a collective commitment to tackle VAWG head-on, drawing on the energy and determination of both WROs and CSOs in Burao. This report aims to delve into the details of the training program, including its objectives, methodologies, outcomes, and the challenges faced, shedding light on the journey of empowerment and transformation embarked upon by these remarkable women. Through this activity the aim was to capture the essence of a community coming together to drive social change, to create a safer and more equitable environment for all women and girls in Burao.



Many communities in Burao, has grappled with the pervasive issue of Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG). This issue extends beyond mere statistics; it touches countless individuals' lives and disrupts the community's fabric. To address this pressing concern, NAFIS Network, in collaboration with local stakeholders, recognized the need to empower Women's Rights Organizations (WROs) and Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) in Burao. These organizations are pivotal in advocating for change, holding institutions accountable, and engaging communities in the fight against VAWG.

The training's primary objective was to enhance participants' knowledge base. This included providing a comprehensive understanding of the different forms of VAWG, its root causes, and its profound impact on individuals and society. By deepening their knowledge, participants would be better equipped to address VAWG effectively. A notable feature of the training methodology was adopting an inclusive community consultation manual developed by the NAFIS Network. This manual facilitated a participatory learning process, enabling participants to engage deeply with the content and providing a platform for open dialogue and shared insights.

The training manual served as a guiding compass, leading participants through a seamless flow of interconnected modules and topics. This ensured a systematic and holistic approach to understanding and addressing VAWG. Throughout the training, participants acquired essential knowledge, skills, and insights in these critical areas, empowering them to play an active role in combatting Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) effectively.

#### **Activity 1.1.5. Quarterly information and experience sharing sessions for CSOs and WROs forum members. (Both in Erigavo and Burao)**

NAFIS Network has conducted second quarterly information and experience sharing session for CSOs and WROs members in both Burao and Erigavo regions, to look the different meetings/secessions that CSOs and WROs perform and unite the different stakeholders on how to empower CSOs and WROs. 60 members participated in the meeting (30 from Erigavo and 30 from Burao).

The participants in the two locations, has engaged in discussions about a range of subjects related to the VAWG during the meetings. The sessions were created as a participative method, allowing the participants to debate issues that were connected to the previously mentioned topic as a group. The primary themes that have been discussed with potential approaches or tactics to solve the concerns associated to the detrimental practices of FGC and VAWG in various places can be summed up as the following.

The purpose of the meeting was to create a platform for CSOs (Civil Society Organizations) and WROs (Women's Rights Organizations) forum members to come together and share valuable information, experiences, and strategies aimed at combating Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) and Female Genital Cutting (FGC).

The participants in the session discussed a wide range of topics related to interventions for CSOs (Civil Society Organizations) to address violence against women and girls and the various interventions they undertake. Members of WROs (Women's Rights Organizations) also shared important knowledge, firsthand accounts, and tactics for addressing VAWG and FGC. They have discussed their experiences looking at gender-based violence issues from many perspectives while presenting statistics and thorough analysis. They provided an overview of the activities necessary to advance the rights and dignity of women and girls, stop gender-based



violence in their area, and create a secure environment where women and girls can live honorably. In order to better understand violence against women and girls (VAWG) and female genital cutting (FGC), the facilitator and participants looked at critical topics and asked crucial questions.

During the meeting, NAFIS team gave the participants an explanation. In order to combat violence against women and girls (VAWG) and female genital cutting (FGC), this meeting's participants will have different forums where members of their CSOs (civil society organizations) and WROs (women's rights organizations) can come together and exchange useful knowledge, experiences, and tactics. All the participants including CSOs, WROs, and other actors from the line ministries, as well as professionals from regional NGOs, groups representing women, and community volunteers discussed and recommended playing the right role to end GBV, VAWG, and all other forms of violence against women and girls.

The participants comprehended the categories of gender-based violence, female genital cutting, and violence against women and girls, as well as the significance of prevention and response to victims, perpetrators, and society at large after group conversations in which they presented their thoughts and collaboration product. Recognized the value of protecting one another's rights as well as the fundamental freedoms to which all people are entitled.

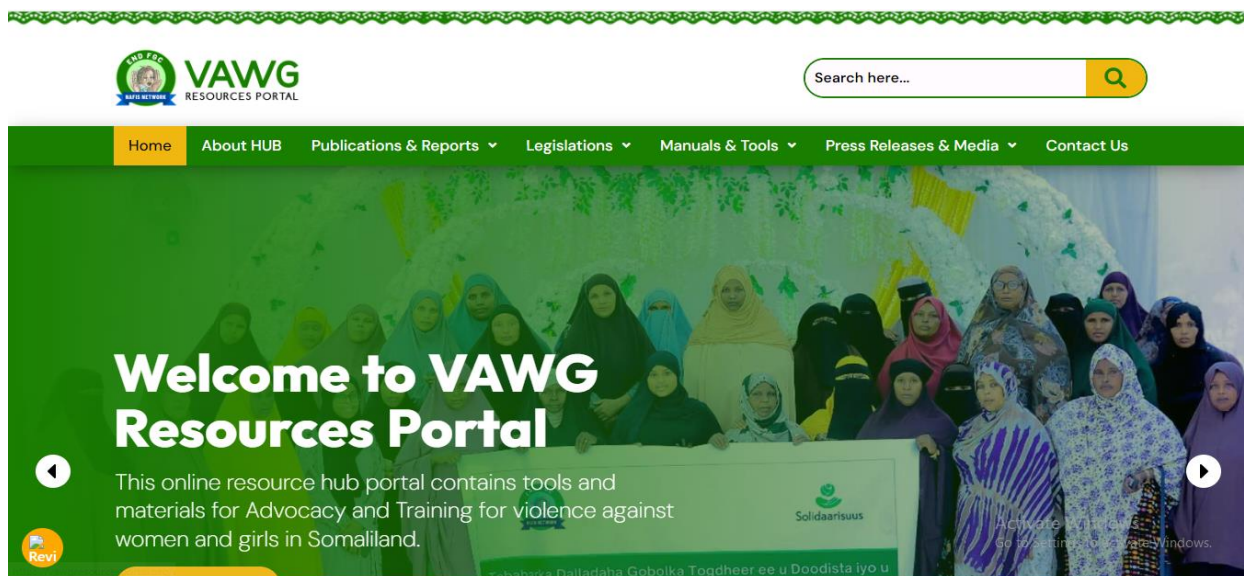
After more discussion and suggestion, the participants listed some actions that needed to be taken, such as the following:

- The various actors must participate in any awareness-raising initiatives to improve public awareness of the effects and repercussions of violations of individual rights.
- Any significant GBV cases or information that occur in the Sanaag Area is gathered by CSOs, WROs, and other players, who then share it with service providers.
- Actors must participate. To eradicate GBV, VAWG, and FGC in the area, traditional and clan elders' roles are to avoid the traditional prevention strategy in which they solve GBV cases like rape and concentrate on the punishment of the perpetrators.
- Actors must take on a health professional role: to provide medical services and psychosocial support to the violated victims to their wellbeing. In order to advance the prevention and response to GBV, VAWG, and FGC, actors must collaborate with the Ministry of Social Affairs to increase the networking and cooperation of community actors, line ministries, and NGOs.

#### **Activity 1.1.6 Create an online hub for CSOs and WROs to share materials and resources on VAWG prevention.**

In this activity, NAFIS has created an online hub which is for CSOs and WROs to use and share on the different materials and resources available on VAWG prevention. In order to document CSOs activities who are engaged in addressing the issue related to VAWG. And all interventions and cases carried out by CSOs and WROs who work in VAWG. and the geographical area where CSOs and WROs actively operate in VAWG.

This comprehensive hub offers a wide range of resources, which has been included in publications, manuals, and research papers which all focused on addressing violence against women and girls. It also provides video content, press releases, and a platform for sharing new research and publications.



Output 2.2: Regional authorities in Togdheer and Sanaag have knowledge and skills to address VAWG.

**Activity 2.2.1. Facilitate a bi-annual regional multi-stakeholder dialogue among CSOs, WROs, CLAs and regional authorities to enforce laws and policies that affect women, girls, PWDs, and minority groups. (Buraos and Erigavo)**

NAFIS Network held a one-day biannual regional meeting in both Buraos and Erigavo with multi-stakeholder dialogue among CSOs, WROs, CLAs, and regional authorities to enforce policies that affect women, girls, PWDs, and minority people. The participants invited were 80 (40 in each region) and all the people participated in the meeting. The participants were active and knowledgeable about the topic. After that, we continued the agenda which was organized and ended by preparing the Jointly interventions for the coming six months.

The objective of the meeting was:

- Adopt collaboration and coordination among CSOs, WROs/CLAs, and regional authorities to address challenges in enforcing laws and policies affecting vulnerable groups.
- Promote effective enforcement and advocacy initiatives by facilitating the exchange of information, best practices, and success stories.
- Identify gaps and challenges in the execution of existing rules and devise solutions to improve the protection of women, girls, people with disabilities, and minority groups.
- Create a collaborative action plan with distinct roles and due dates to guarantee the efficient application of regulations and legislation that protect the rights of minority groups.



## DISCUSSION SUMMARY

#	TASK	OUTCOME
1.	<p><b>Session One:</b></p> <p><b>What are the existing laws and policies in Somaliland that specifically address the rights and protection of women, girls, PWDs, and minority groups?</b></p>	<p>After individual discussion,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Participants presented their ideas, and shared their suggestions and clearly understood the exact meaning of the task of this session.</li> <li>- They shared the comprehensive knowledge of the current laws and policies in Somaliland that specifically target violence against women and girls.</li> <li>- They understood the scope and applicability of these laws and policies in addressing various forms of violence's faced by women and girls.</li> <li>- They mentioned that the only existing law and policies in Somaliland they have known is the Rape Act and that has not come into the effect yet.</li> </ul>
2.	<p><b>Session two:</b></p> <p><b>Identifying Gaps and Areas for Action in VAWG</b></p>	<p>After more discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Participants agree and identify gaps and areas for action in VAWG.</li> <li>- Participants engaged in a comprehensive discussion and identified the gaps in policies, services, and social norms that contribute to violence against women and girls, and collaboratively analyzed.</li> <li>- As participants shared that there is an Islamic religion mentioned the violence against women and girls it, and this rule is not compatible. Also, they mentioned that traditional elders do not consider this rule and need to understand the importance of their roles.</li> <li>- Moreover, session participants identified that there is a Limited democratic quota for women. Also, they mentioned a Lack of acknowledge and misunderstood of the importance of this law.</li> <li>- The politics of the national parties are not united. And This rule is not respected in our culture.</li> </ul>
3.	<p><b>Session Three:</b></p>	<p>In this session the facilitator briefly explains the participants the task of this session.</p>





**How do CSOs, WROs, CLAs, and regional authorities collaborate to address issues related to Gender-Based violence and discrimination against vulnerable communities?**

After group discussion, participants presented their ideas, and shared their suggestions and clearly detailed how CSOs, WROs/CLAs, and regional authorities will collaborate, and address issues related to Gender-Based violence and discrimination against vulnerable communities. Including:

- Awareness and meetings.
- Connection and cooperation.
- Cases of Occurrence Submission.
- Traditional Elders should work with us.

#### 4. Session four:

**Exploring ways to enhance cooperation and coordination.**

In this session: Facilitator briefly explains the task of this session and asked every group to explore the ways to enhance cooperation and coordination among CSOs, WROs/CLAs, regional authorities, and other stakeholders to collectively combat violence against women and girls in Somaliland.

**How can we foster greater collaboration and coordination among CSOs, WROs, CLAs, regional authorities, and other stakeholders to collectively combat violence against women and girls in Somaliland?**

Participants presented their ideas, and shared their suggestions as follows.

- To create an umbrella that unites organizations that work on women's rights.
- To hold meetings every three months.
- To design an app that we collect the cases specially use the LNGOs.
- Ministry of Employment, social Affairs and Family and LNGOs cooperate is to provide training to WROs/CLAs.

#### Meeting Outcome

- Enhanced collaboration and communication among CSOs, WROs/CLAs, and regional authorities.
- Identified strategies and solutions to address challenges in enforcing laws and policies affecting women, girls, PWDs, and minority groups.
- A concrete action plan with defined responsibilities and timelines for implementing targeted policies and initiatives.
- Strengthened commitment from all stakeholders to protect and promote the rights of vulnerable communities.

**Output 2.3:** SHG Cluster Associations in Togdheer and Sanaag are empowered to claim to women's bodily integrity.



### **Activity 2.3.1. Train CLAs on advocacy and lobbying to influence key regional authorities (Burao and Erigavo)**

In Burao, Togdheer and Erigavo, Sanaag NAFIS has conducted a training on 6-days per region, which was held to teach 4 different CLAs on each region by advocacy and lobbying techniques for influencing key regional decision-makers/authorities in order to take part the different meetings, trainings and workshops which is related to the VAWG.

In this training 4 CLAs (**Han & Hiigsi, Damal, Sahan, and Waqal**) in Burao and 4 CLAs (**Alla-Aamin, Damal, Kaaba and Himilo**) was invited and each CLA would have 20 members, so the total members who participated in this training was 160 (Females). And as per the methodology of the training it has been conducted separate 3 days of training for each of the 2 CLAs. They participated and were humbled to understand the objective of this training by looking at the different topics which will be covered. At the end of the two sessions, they shared their experience about the advocacy and how they were represented in their cases, as well as how they felt about getting the right step and on by:

- Build the knowledge of women in cluster-level associations about their rights, advocacy, and social rights.
- Increase the safety of the girls and women at imminent risk of sexual and gender-based violence.
- Improve access to and demand for support services and justice mechanisms for survivors.
- Promote positive change through advocacy, awareness-raising, and outreach activities.
- Strengthen and develop sustainable community-based protection mechanisms to prevent and respond to FGC and GBV.

After taking all the sessions for the training, the CLAs has recommended elaborating the topics about FGM/C and GBV and developing the needs they were already thinking about to help their approach. They explained that advocacy and lobbying are helpful topics, but over the past three years they have seen that these topics has been repeated several times with several NGOs. However, they appreciated the way we tried to support them in increasing their knowledge. Also, CLAs were thinking of creating new skills to stop the practice of female circumcision every school holiday among young girls. because the circumcisers already used a creative norm to continue their job.

On the other hand, the CLAs recommended changing the target group to only be women and girls, but by adding the youth, especially the men, we have pressure from the elders because they are confused about why only women and girls participate in training like this, so we have to create an information sharing program to match our religion.

### **Activity 2.3.3. Support CLAs to conduct sensitization on VAWG for their respective SHGs. (Burao and Erigavo).**

In this activity was to support different CLAs to conduct sensitization on VAWG prevention for their respective SHGs. The project has engaged 8 different CLAs who located in both Burao and Erigavo, Somaliland.



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Han iyo Hiigsi, Waqal, Damal and Alla-Aamin CLAs was the four CLAs, which has conducted a half-day session to support 20 members by each who come from 10 different SHGs which are under their CLAs for the sensitization on violence against women and girls' prevention. The chairwoman of the CLA has organized for the session. All the 80 members (40 per region) were female.

The objective of the activity was:

- To teach for the other members for the training that CLAs has attended which was focusing on advocacy and lobbying for VAWG prevention and,
- To share for the knowledge that the chairwomen and CLA members has taken for the other members.

In the session it has been started on greetings and sitting the people into circle form, and then reciting some verses of Qur'an and then started about what participated has knowledge about the VAWG and FGC, and some of the members has mentioned that they had participated some campaigns who are talking about general awareness about the VAWG and FGC. The members explained the useful information about the VAWG and FGC as they appreciated NAFIS Network for the way they supported them in gaining precious lessons to develop their skills to handle the cases they faced in the village.

The chairwomen of the CLA have welcomed the participants and has shared that reason behind the meeting which is peer to peer education about the VAWG preventions since GBV is global pandemic and shared that violence against women and girls can includes domestic abuse; rape and sexual violence; stalking; forced and early marriage; female genital mutilation (FGM); trafficking and sexual exploitation including through the sex industry; and sexual harassment in work and public life.

After this, participants have openly shared that VAWG cases are common in Somaliland and occurs every time in somewhere. They have discussed on what they know about the GBV, the different types/forms of GBV, the consequences or health complications they made, advocacy tips, how everyone of them can do advocacy and different steps they can follow. Also, what they know about the female genital cutting, does FGC has benefit, short- and long-term health risks of FGC, who is at risk and how to protect our young girls.

All the participants have agreed that topics they discussed are something which are true and beneficial information that they needed, and also agreed that they will spread this information for the other members who are in their respective SHGs. In addition, the participants acknowledged on emerged advocacy and lobbying progress they started in the community in Somaliland especially those who are in their respective region, and they have mentioned that they will support and help this as well-organized people, and also that they are very happy for this peer-to-peer approach which has started in Somaliland. The chairwoman has closed the session and appreciated the valued moments they took together and how the participants were active.

## **COMMUNICATION, ADVOCACY AND NETWORKING**

NAFIS Network frequently participates in monthly national working groups which is Ministry of Employment, Social Affairs and Family organized for the different CSOs, INGOs and regional authorities. In this working group meetings, the stakeholders share information and experiences that have elaborated as an organization/institution. Especially what has been done for the anti-FGC policy/law.





**TABLE 1: Quarter activity report (add as many rows as needed)**

Output (nr/ wording)	Planned activity	Status <sup>1</sup>	Nr participants disaggregated <sup>2</sup>	Of these NEW <sup>2</sup> (attended 1 <sup>st</sup> time)	What worked well, why? What didn't work that well, why? Reason for eventual revision / postponement / cancelling? New timetable for postponed activities?
Output 1.1: CSOs and WROs (here: CLAs) working to end VAWG have mechanisms to continue their efforts during crises.	Activity 1.1.4. Train CSOs and WROs in advocacy, social accountability, and community engagement on VAWG prevention. (Buraq)	Conducted	45	New	This activity it has been conducted partially, the training in Erigavo will be conducted in first month of Q4.
	Activity 1.1.5 Conduct quarterly information and experience sharing sessions for CSOs and WROs forum members (Both Erigavo and Buraq)	Conducted	60	New	
	Activity 1.1.6. Create an online hub for CSOs and WROs to share materials and resources on VAWG prevention	Conducted	44	New	
Output 2.2: Regional authorities in Togdheer and Sanaag have knowledge and skills to address VAWG	Activity 2.2.1. Facilitate a bi-annual regional multi-stakeholder dialogue among CSOs, WROs, CLAs and regional authorities to enforce laws and policies that affect women, girls, PWDs, and minority groups	Conducted	80	New	
Output 2.3: SHG Cluster Associations in Togdheer and Sanaag are empowered to claim to women's bodily integrity	Activity 2.3.1. Train CLAs on advocacy and lobbying to influence key regional authorities (Erigavo)	Conducted	160	New	
	Activity 2.3.3. Support CLAs to conduct sensitization on VAWG for their respective SHGs.	Conducted	80	New	

<sup>1</sup> fully completed / on-track / postponed / cancelled.

<sup>2</sup> by gender and age (adult/child) s



**TABLE 2: Main communications activities (add as many rows as needed)**

Activities conducted within this:

Activity (incl. topic)	Estimated total reach <sup>3</sup>	Distribution (channels where delivered)	Earned or bought media (incl. cost of distribution) <sup>4</sup>	Link to content (if available)
[Images] About Activity 1.1.4. Train CSOs and WROs in advocacy, social accountability, and community engagement on VAWG prevention. (Burao)	119 views	Twitter: accounts where content was distributed	No cost (earned)	<a href="https://x.c9om/NAFIS_NETWORK/status/1703666990018068802?s=20">https://x.c9om/NAFIS_NETWORK/status/1703666990018068802?s=20</a>
[Images] Activity 1.1.5 Conduct quarterly information and experience sharing sessions for CSOs and WROs forum members (Both Erigavo and Burao)	77 views	Twitter: accounts where content was distributed	No cost (earned)	
Activity 1.1.6. Create an online hub for CSOs and WROs to share materials and resources on VAWG prevention		Website	No cost (earned)	<a href="https://vawgresourcesportal.org/">https://vawgresourcesportal.org/</a>
(Images) Activity 2.2.1. Facilitate a bi-annual regional multi-stakeholder dialogue among CSOs, WROs, CLAs and regional	315 views	Twitter: accounts where content was distributed	No cost (earned)	<a href="https://x.com/NAFIS_NETWORK/status/1688424679969640448?s=20">https://x.com/NAFIS_NETWORK/status/1688424679969640448?s=20</a>

<sup>3</sup> How many unique users/people the media reaches (usually different medias can provide this estimation). Reach of content in different social media channels combined > can be found in the analytics of FB, Instagram and Twitter

<sup>4</sup> Report here distribution cost, NOT production cost



<i>authorities to enforce laws and policies that affect women, girls, PWDs, and minority groups</i>				
<i>Activity 2.3.1. Train CLAs on advocacy and lobbying to influence key regional authorities (Erigavo)</i>	<i>208 views</i>	<i>Twitter: accounts where content was distributed</i>	<i>No cost (earned)</i>	<a href="https://x.com/NAFIS_NETWORK/status/1687015332785868800?s=20">https://x.com/NAFIS_NETWORK/status/1687015332785868800?s=20</a>
<i>Activity 2.3.3. Support CLAs to conduct sensitization on VAWG for their respective SHGs.</i>	<i>168 views</i>	<i>Twitter: accounts where content was distributed</i>	<i>No cost (earned)</i>	<a href="https://x.com/NAFIS_NETWORK/status/1706182325849997597?s=20">https://x.com/NAFIS_NETWORK/status/1706182325849997597?s=20</a>