



QUARTERLY REPORT

Reporting organization: NAFIS Network

Reporting period: April-June 2023

PROJECT ACTIVITIES:

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

Activity 1.1.1. Mapping CSOs and WROs who are involved in ending VAWG and FGC in target regions.

The mapping assessment was conducted by NAFIS Network in June 2023. 20 organizations have participated in this assessment aimed at assessing the mapping of civil society organizations (CSOs) and women's rights organizations (WROs) operating in Togdheer and Sanaag regions in Somaliland. The assessment had several objectives, including identifying the geographical areas of operation, understanding the capacity and interventions of CSOs and WROs, analyzing challenges and constraints faced, assessing collaboration with regional authorities, and examining cooperation among different organizations. The assessment has utilized a mixed-methods approach, combining both key informant interviews and secondary data analysis.

After the assessment, the findings indicate a significant presence of CSOs in both the Togdheer and Sanaag regions, with a higher concentration in Burao. These organizations have clear missions and visions aligned with addressing social issues, particularly in VAWG. They operate across different thematic areas, including protection, livelihood, women's empowerment, legal issues, health, education, WASH, and TVET. The organizations have legal registration from the Ministry of Planning and National Development (MPND) in Somaliland.

The assessment report has identified challenges such as limited funding, policy barriers, social norms, and a lack of collaboration that hinder the efforts of CSOs and WROs in addressing VAWG. Despite these challenges, some organizations are implementing projects related to VAWG and FGC, while others face funding gaps. The funding sources primarily rely on donor funds. Specific organizations have diversified their sources through vocational training centers, engagement with the diaspora community, support from education schools, and entrepreneurship programs.

Based on the findings of the CSOs mapping assessment, there are a number of recommendations that are proposed for the CSOs and WROs in targeted regions including:



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- Facilitate platforms for increased collaboration and networking among CSOs, WROs, and regional authorities to enhance coordination, share best practices, and leverage collective strengths in addressing VAWG.
- Explore avenues to address the funding gaps faced by CSOs and WROs, such as seeking diverse funding sources, engaging the diaspora community, establishing vocational training centers, and promoting entrepreneurship initiatives.
- Provide capacity-building support to CSOs and WROs, focusing on areas such as project management, financial sustainability, monitoring and evaluation, advocacy, and networking skills to enhance their effectiveness in addressing VAWG.
- Advocate for policy reforms and engage in dialogue with relevant stakeholders to address policy barriers that hinder the efforts of CSOs and WROs in combating VAWG. This includes advocating for gender-responsive legislation and policies that protect the rights of women and girls.
- Facilitate knowledge-sharing platforms, workshops, and conferences to promote the exchange of best practices, lessons learned, and innovative approaches among CSOs, WROs, and regional authorities.
- Conduct periodic assessments or evaluations to monitor the progress and impact of CSOs and WROs in addressing VAWG. This will help identify areas for improvement, measure the effectiveness of interventions, and guide future strategies and interventions.

Activity 1.1.2. Assess the capacity on identified CSOs and WROs in areas of community engagement and social accountability.

In the assessment it was discussed with the institutional pillars of organizations including the governance system, organizational management, prevention of violence against women and girls, program management, human resource management and financial management. All these were examined to find out how each organization is effective in community engagement, social accountability, and trust and how it deals preventing violence against women and girls.

During the assessment, comprehensive and standardized mechanism for institutional assessment was adapted with the focus of the institutional capacity assessment objectives. For true representation and information gap, well-informed members of the organizations were interviewed with the respect to his/her information and knowledge about the organization's structure and work. Similarly, all the institutional documents and systems including policies, strategies, reporting templates and organizational frameworks/guideline were reviewed and consulted applying in various capacity assessment tools and mechanisms such as Organizational capacity, Strengthening and Weaknesses Analysis, Monitoring and Evaluation Mechanisms and Capacity Assessment in VAWG Prevention for further finetune the capacity and commitment of the organization.



Key Findings:

Organizational Governance Systems:

- Organizations' governance systems and structures were investigated as part of the institutional capacity assessment. There are four factors of including 1) organizational mission, vision, and values, 2) governing board, 3) executive succession plans, and 4) policies, procedures, and systems that are in place and operational. Henceforth, in the assessment of these thematic areas, four level of ratings were used 1) Need Improvement, 2) Basic, 3) Good, and 4) Commendable (excellent).

Organizational Management

- During the assessment, it was maintained reviewing the strategic plan, a long-term and cost-effective plan, and an annual operations plan to accomplish the institution's mission and goals. By this pillar, the factors considered were 1) strategic and operational plans 2) resource mobilization 3) documentation and reporting 4) stakeholder involvement 5) advocacy planning 6) community engagement.

Prevention of Violence Against Women and Girls

- The assessment considered capacity of the organizations' prevention of violence against women processes, principles, approaches, and practices. However, the assessment revealed that the organizations had minimal to basic capacities, experiences, protocols, and systems for preventing violence against women and girls. Furthermore, neither organization has an advocacy plan for preventing violence against women and girls nor does it have well-trained and dedicated staff focused on this issue.

Activity 1.1.3. Developing or adopting tools and manuals on inclusive community consultation and mobilization, feedback/complaint mechanisms etc.

In this activity, it has involves providing CSOs and WROs with resources and guidelines to facilitate inclusive community consultations and mobilization. It also focuses on establishing effective feedback and complaint mechanisms designed specifically for CSOs and WROs who are working on issues related to Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) and Female Genital Cutting (FGC). The tools and manuals aim to strengthen the organizations' abilities to engage with communities, collect feedback, and address complaints concerning VAWG/FGC.

Additionally, the manual intends to give these CSOs and WROs the crucial information, methods, and resources needed to successfully carry out inclusive community consultations and mobilization initiatives. It focuses on developing effective and quick feedback and complaint methods. CSOs and WROs can effectively address the unique needs and concerns of marginalized groups by adopting inclusive approaches, hence enhancing their effectiveness in the fight against VAWG and FGC.

This manual has a number of modules which will be focused during its usage:

- ❖ Module 1 Introduction to Inclusive Community Consultation And Mobilization
- ❖ Module 2: Key concepts and Principles
- ❖ Module 3: Preparing for Community Consultation and Mobilization
- ❖ Module 4: Engaging Diverse Stakeholders
- ❖ Module 5: Conducting Effective Consultations



❖ Module 6: Feedback and Complaint Mechanisms

Activity 1.1.5. Quarterly information and experience sharing sessions for CSOs and WROs forum members.

During the meetings, the participants in the two sites were discussed with various topics and discussions that related to the FGC and VAWG. The sessions were designed as a participatory method that enabled the participants to collectively discuss the issues that related to the above-mentioned topics. The following main points were summarized themes that have discussed with possible strategies or approach to address the identified issues related to the harmful practices of FGC and VAWG in perspectives regions.

Participants highlighted several common challenges and gaps in addressing VAWG and FGM in Somaliland. Some of these challenges included:

1. **Limited Awareness:** Participants recognized the need for greater awareness and sensitization campaigns to educate communities about the harmful consequences of VAWG and FGM.
2. **Insufficient Funding:** CSOs and WROs face financial constraints in implementing their programs and initiatives effectively.
3. **Weak Legal Framework:** Participants acknowledged the importance of strengthening the legal framework to ensure adequate protection for women and girls.
4. **Deep-rooted Cultural Norms:** Cultural norms and practices that perpetuate violence against women and girls remain a significant challenge.
5. **the participants commonly agreed up the existing overlapping implementation of the project lead by the CSOs in the regions with different approach or perspectives that resulted the community confusion related to the same project that CSOs implemented.**

To overcome these challenges, participants emphasized the following:

- Organizing targeted campaigns to raise awareness about VAWG and FGM in local communities.
- Seeking funding from various sources, including international donors and local partnerships, to sustain and expand their initiatives.
- Collaborating with the government and relevant stakeholders to advocate for improved legal frameworks to protect women and girls.
- Engaging with local leaders and community members to challenge harmful cultural practices and promote gender equality.
- Joint initiative: building joint initiative among the CSOs to implement the project will reduce the community expectations and will lead project sustainably.

The quarterly information and experience sharing sessions for CSOs and WROs forum members have proven to be highly beneficial in addressing the challenges of Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) and Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) in Somaliland. Through these sessions, participants engaged in constructive dialogues, sharing valuable insights, and exchanging best practices. The discussions revealed the critical areas of concern, including limited resources, access



to remote areas, resistance to change, coordination and collaboration issues, and challenges in monitoring and evaluation.

The collaborative approach between CSOs and the government in strengthening legal frameworks was acknowledged as a powerful means to tackle VAWG and FGM effectively. Strategies such as engaging with policymakers, participating in policy formulation, providing expertise, and monitoring implementation were identified as crucial steps in creating comprehensive and culturally sensitive laws and policies.

In addressing the challenges faced by CSOs in providing support and services to survivors of FGM and VAWG, the importance of sensitization and awareness campaigns, trauma-informed care, capacity building, and sustainable long-term programs was highlighted. These strategies are essential to create a supportive environment for survivors, reduce stigma, offer specialized care, and ensure continued assistance to aid in their recovery and empowerment.

Activity 5.1. Implementation of project baseline.

The project's approach is multi-faceted, encompassing capacity building for duty bearers, empowering women through leadership and decision-making roles, and fostering partnerships between CSOs and duty bearers to ensure an integrated response to VAWG.

By unifying these stakeholders and leveraging their expertise, the project aims to create sustainable change and reduce the prevalence of VAWG in Togdheer and Sanaag regions in Somaliland.

There was needed baseline study to carry out by NAFIS network on June 2023 which will serve an initial assessment to understand the existing landscape of VAWG, the roles and engagement of women, CSOs, and duty bearers, and the challenges and opportunities for collaboration. This will guide the project's interventions, strategies, and advocacy efforts to effectively address VAWG and promote gender equality in Somaliland.

The study design used a mixed-methods approach, combining both qualitative and quantitative methods. This method enables a thorough comprehension of the existing state of VAWG, the responsibilities of women, civil society, and duty bearers, as well as the chances for cooperation. The qualitative data provides in-depth insights and perspectives, while the quantitative data enables statistical analysis and generalization of findings.

The baseline has employed semi-structured like key informant interviews (KIIs) and unstructured like focus group discussions (FGDs). This methodology was chosen to facilitate a comprehensive and detailed analysis of the project outcome and indicators. FGD was used to address the *OUTCOME 2 (Regional authorities engage with local CSOs and WROs to mitigate VAWG)*. And it has identified the number of CSOs Staffs and WROs (CLA women) who are regularly invited by the reg. authorities in the advocacy meetings who are addressing women's rights and VAWG in two regions.



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In KIIs was used for the CSOs and WROs organization who are based on the targeted regions, to address the *OUTCOME 1. (CSOs and WROs working to end VAWG are institutionally strengthened to ensure the sustainability of the organizations)*. Which emphasizing the number of CSOs and WROs that have established partnerships / collaboration with key authorities, community groups, and other stakeholders working to end VAWG, and have publicly committed to a zero-tolerance position on FGC, cumulative from project start. Similarly, it was also addressing *OUTCOME 2. (Regional authorities engage with local CSOs and WROs to mitigate VAWG. Which targeting the Number of CSOs and WROs (CLA women))*. who are regularly invited by the regional authorities to the advocacy meetings addressing women's rights and VAWG in the two regions.

Additionally, the baseline has used the Ombea survey tools which was conducted with the CLA group (members) in the two regions. This survey was aimed to collect quantitative data on their knowledge, attitudes, and practices related to VAWG, including topics such as Female Genital Cutting (FGC), early marriage, domestic violence, and spouse violence. The survey also aimed to assess their engagement in addressing these issues and their involvement in activities aimed at preventing VAWG.

Based on the findings of the baseline study, it is evident that civil society organizations (CSOs) and women's rights organizations (WROs) in the regions of Buroa and Erigavo are actively engaged in efforts to end violence against women and girls (VAWG). The study revealed key insights regarding to the institutional strengthening of CSOs and WROs, their engagement with regional authorities, mainstreaming of VAWG and FGC issues, collaboration and partnership building, successful initiatives and joint projects, the contribution of partnerships to ending VAWG, commitment to zero tolerance on FGC, engagement of regional authorities in advocacy meetings, and CSOs' contributions in shaping policies and programs on women's rights. These findings provide a solid foundation for formulating recommendations to further enhance the effectiveness of CSOs and WROs in their endeavors to end VAWG.

COMMUNICATION, ADVOCACY AND NETWORKING

NAFIS has developed Advocacy and Lobbying Manual were to help the community to understand what advocacy means, the basic elements, how do we do advocacy and how they can advocate for any violence against women and girls.

MONITORING AND EVALUATION

Project baseline study has been carried out within this quarter. The main purpose of this activity was to show how target beneficiaries understand VAWG and the information that they have before the implementation of the activities.



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

Output (nr/ wording)	Planned activity	Status ¹	Nr participants disaggregated ²	Of these NEW ² (attended 1 st 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 1.1.1. Map CSOs and WROs involved in ending FGC and VAWG in the Togdheer and Sanaag regions	Conducted	20	New	
	Activity 1.1.2. Assess the capacity on identified CSOs and WROs in areas of community engagement and social accountability	Ongoing	15	New	
	Activity 1.1.3. Develop/adopt tools and manuals on inclusive community consultation and mobilization, feedback/complaint mechanisms etc.	Conducted	Document	New	
	Activity 1.1.5 Conduct quarterly information and experience sharing sessions for CSOs and WROs forum members	Conducted	30	New	
	Activity 5.1.	Conducted	300	New	

¹ fully completed / on-track / postponed / cancelled.

² by gender and age (adult/child)