



NAFIS NETWORK

ANNUAL REPORT

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NAFIS NETWORK

Contact: +2522 570203

Email: NAFIS@NAFISNETWORK.ORG

WWW.NAFISNETWORK.NET

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MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



The COVID-19 third wave escalated in 2021, killing many elderly and chronically ill people. The final wave of attacks was completely unrestrained. There were 8381 instances as of December 20, 2021, of which 7086 have recovered. This year's outbreak claimed the lives of 588 people. Somaliland's Ministry of Health Development

The legislative and municipal elections in Somaliland are scheduled for May 31. There were three women elected to local councils, but none to the legislature. Some freshly elected MPs, on the other hand, have extensive experience in local CSOs dedicated to furthering women's rights, bringing optimism in the fight against FGM and SGBV.

Somaliland suffered severe inflation in 2021, with rising prices for goods and services lowering the standard of living. It has sparked public outrage and is currently being debated among mothers who bring bread to dinner tables. Somaliland's economic stability is jeopardized by inflation.

NAFIS Network provided women who lost income because to the COVID-19 Pandemic with prophylactic supplies (face-masks, gloves, and soap), cash, and food. We assisted local populations in preventing COVID19 by disseminating IEC materials and delivering COVID19 preventative information via Radio Hargeisa.

We thank our government, donors, and other partners for their support.

Executive Director-NAFIS Network

I. WHO WE ARE?

NAFIS is a national leading network organization for Ending all forms of female genital mutilation or Cutting FGC in Somaliland



OUR MISSION

Somaliland girls and women are enjoying fully dignified life, free from any form of female genital cutting and other types of gender-based violence.



OUR VISION

NAFIS endeavours to prevent the total abandonment of FGC on girls through advocacy, lobbying, coordination, information sharing, stakeholders' capacity building, and empowerment of women socially, economically, & politically.

2. OUR STRATEGY



3. **CAPACITY BUILDING AND KNOWLEDGE SHARING**



NAFIS has twenty member organizations and provides them with the tools and knowledge they need to completely abandon all forms of FGC.

To support NAFIS Network members, adapt to COVID-19-related changes. The NAFIS Network improved the operational and institutional capacity of women-led grassroots organizations. We provided fundraising, community involvement and mobilization, advocacy, and lobbying training to our member organizations in 2021.



Table 1 shows a list of the capacity-building trainings that we provided to NAFIS Network member organizations.

#	TITLE OF TRAINING	# Of CSOs	# of Individual attended Participants	Location
1	Fundraising Training	20 CSO	40 People	Hargeisa
2	Community Engagement and Mobilization	20 CSO	40 People	Hargeisa
3	Advocacy, And Lobbying	20 CSO	40 People	Hargeisa

BUILDING LOCAL JOURNALIST AND MEDIA PRACTITIONER CAPACITY TO ENGAGE IN ENDING FGC CAMPAIGN



Promoting the role of media practitioners and young journalists in ending the FGC campaign at national level. There were 40 female and 20 male media representatives who were trained by NAFIS. They learned about harmful social and cultural practices in Somaliland, why it's important to talk about them, and what the media can do to spread information and help fight against harmful practice of FGC and sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV). 7

KNOWLEDGE SHARING FOR ENDING FGC IN SOMALILAND AND SOMALIA.



To scale up efforts to end FGC in all regions of Somaliland and Somalia, the NAFIS Network organized a knowledge sharing and learning workshop on the NAFIS Network's strategy and approaches, as well as how CSOs from the south of Somalia engage their community, policymakers, and other FGC stakeholders.

Workshop for knowledge sharing on how Somali CSOs engage different parts of the community to end FGC and empower communities to abandon FGC. During the workshop, CSOs shared knowledge and best practice to accelerate change and advocated mong governments to ensure work to end FGC is prioritised. We also try to get parliaments to put ending FGC at the top of their agendas.

STRENGTHENING THE CAPACITY OF SHG PROMOTING ORGANIZATION ON SHG FORMATION AND MANAGEMENT TRAINING



By providing professional development opportunities such as pre-service and on-the-job training, monitoring visits, attendance at conferences and other events, the SHG National Coordination office strives to improve the competencies and skills of its SHG Project officers, community facilitators, self-help group and cluster level associations and other stakeholders.

The SHG program provides the following primary training for the employees of the promoted organizations as part of this initiative. Including

1. Federation Capacity Building by Federation Strengthening team.
2. Federation Strengthening and Capacity building by National Coordination Office
3. Refresh Training on SHG formation and Management

LIFE SKILLS TRAINING FOR CHAMPION CHANGE ADOLESCENT GIRLS ON PREVENTION OF MIGRATION, AND RESPONSE OF THE GBV TRAINING



In recent years, there has been significant evidence that life skills programs for young girls reduce exposure to gender-based violence (GBV) and increase their personal wellness. As a result, local young girls are being empowered to advocate for changes to prevent GBV and raise awareness in their communities. For 60 young females from Hargeisa and Buroa, the NAFIS Network delivered capacity-building training.

4. BUILDING PARTNERSHIPS AND COLLABORATION WITH STATE AND NON-STATE ACTORS



NAFIS Network in collaborating with the Ministry of Employment, Social Affairs, and Family (MESAF) conducted high-level consultation meeting was held with key ministers from Somaliland to finalize the process of the National Female Genital Mutilation Board and to accelerate and coordinate the mission against the harmful practice of female genital mutilation in the country.

Following the seven ministries (Social Affairs, Justice, Health, Youth, Rural Development, Constitution, and Livestock), the Human rights commission, and the civil society core team attended the meeting. The Consultation meeting on information sharing among line ministries based on preparation and distribution of the final draft of the Anti- FGC policy and the formation of the National FGC Policy Board, which will defend FGC policy and law, as well as other issues of gender-based violence, such as the rape statute at cabinet level.

BUILDING COLLABORATION RELIGIOUS LEADERS AND MINISTRY OF RELIGION AFFAIRS AT REGIONAL LEVEL



In 2021, a regional dialogue was held to educate and equip religious leaders from MORA and mosques to embrace the final prohibition of FGC. These included the health effects of FGC on girls and women, as well as the many forms of FGC. Similarly, they shared survivor experiences to encourage one another to empathize with girls and women and accept the outlawing of FGC.

Important points of agreement were scholars, religious leaders, and health professionals will be on the front lines in the fight to abolish FGC. Collaboration with religious leaders should be strengthened when drafting anti-FGC legislation, as should awareness and implementation.

NATIONAL AND REGIONAL COORDINATION MEETING ANTI-FGC STAKEHOLDERS.



To build a strong movement campaign at the national and regional level, the NAFIS Network organizes coordination meetings in six regions of Somaliland. The NAFIS Network convened a meeting with civil society and experts to discuss the draft FGM Bill's progress and future. Members of the taskforce decided to expedite the House of Representatives submission of the agreed FGM Bill.

They conducted stakeholder mapping to better understand the newly elected House members and supported the standing committees on social affairs and human rights; they also engaged MESAF to keep them updated on developments and to assist them in developing the FGM Policy. the Religious Affairs Ministry and the Fatwa Committee; they will follow up with the House of Parliament's designated social affairs committee. Once the names of the committees are out, a map will be made, and new members will be able to study and help write the

DECLARATION OF ABANDON OF THE FGC FROM GRASSROOT LEVEL



Through community-led advocacy, NAFIS Network builds the capacity of the existing structure at the grassroots organizations (women in SHGs) to publicly announce the abandonment of the harmful practice in their community to save the next generation of girls from the harmful practice of the FGC through community-led advocacy.

The local community ambassador used social pressure to persuade local communities to comply with the end of female genital mutilation, which resulted in a reduction in the prevalence of FGC and, ultimately, the proclamation of abandonment of FGC.

Twelve villages in Hargeisa and Buroa have publicly declared their abandonment of the harmful practice of the FGC and their daughters will not undergo the harmful practice of the FGC.

5. COMMUNITY EDUCATION ON FGC AND SURVIVORS SUPPORT



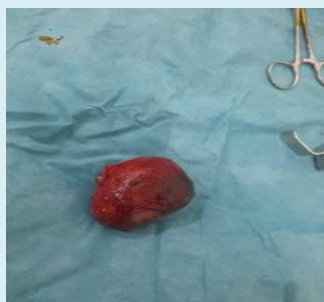
Scaling up community education on FGC and survivor support is contributing the achievement of Pillar 4: “Social Development”, in the Somaliland Vision 20301 and objective 6 of the National Gender Implementation Plan which states: *To increase access to information, counselling, social support and treatment of and protection against sexual and gender-based violence and other harmful practices to all women, men, girls and boys.*

During the year 2021, the NAFIS Network effectively educated 5,754 beneficiaries about female genital cutting, its health risks, and the need to protect young girls from this harmful cultural practice. 3,989 beneficiaries were counselled, while 1,138 were visited by outreach workers from MCHs. Moreover, 600 women were contacted monthly for group discussions, and NAFIS referred 27 FGC survivors who had keloid cysts and had minor cyst removal surgery

Beneficiaries Figure: January – December 2021

Regions	# Of survivors given counselling	#Of supported cases	# Of monthly group discussions	# Of outreach household visit covered	Total number of cases
Awdal	454	1	120	183	783
Maroodi-jeeh	1385	10	120	0	1515
Sahil	621	0	120	242	983
Togdheer	838	14	120	452	1424
Sanaag	691	2	120	261	1074
Total	3,989	27	600	1,138	5,779

CASE STORY:



Maryam Mohamed Muse is a married woman from Hargeisa's 150 villages. Maryam was 9 years when she was circumcised. She suffered an infection, discomfort,

and back ache after the circumcision, and a keloid cyst in the upper vagina. So, she hides the cyst from her family and is ashamed to tell anyone. Similarly, she is unaware that the cyst is a result of her early FGM/C. Mariam had constant arguments with her spouse after she married to the point where she was near to divorcing him. Her acquaintance also tells her about the NAFIS support centre and the financial assistance they provide to FGC survivors. She went to the NAFIS support centre in Hargeisa for psychosocial therapy and an examination to see if the cyst was caused by the FGC. So, social workers recommended her to Gargaar Hospital for surgery and medicine, and NAFIS reimbursed all expenditures. Maryam praised NAFIS and SSRA for safeguarding her marriage and offered to help raise anti-FGC awareness. She also declared that she will never circumcise her daughter and will not allow her to undergo FGC. She also urged FGC survivors not to hide their pain and to seek medical help. She also urged mothers not to circumcise their daughters, a harmful traditional practice.

6. PROMOTION OF THE SELF-HELP GROUP APPROACH IN SOMALILAND.

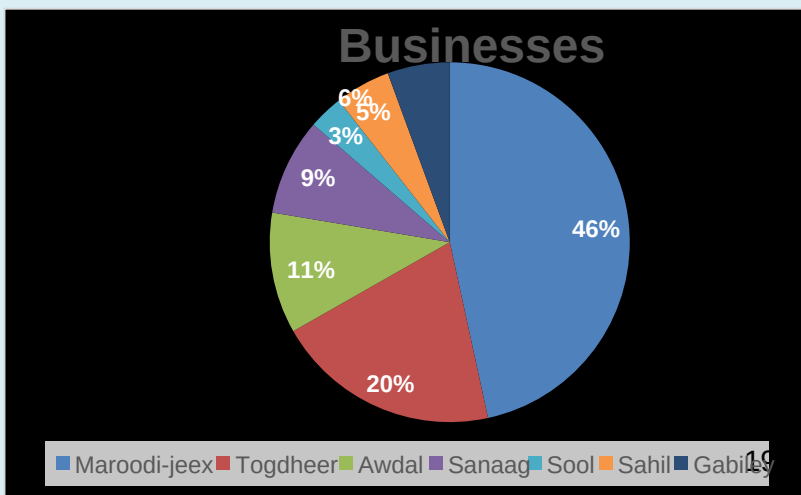


Summary of figure and SHG status

The self-help group program has successfully promoted in six regions of Somaliland (Awdal, Maroodi-Jeex, Sahil, Togdheer, Sool and Sanaag) and 12 SHG promoting organization form and build the capacity of self-help groups. The self-help group approach is a bottom-up approach which builds on peoples' existing capabilities and strengths. It is an empowerment approach which prioritizes the building and strengthening of a poor woman by forming three levels of which interacts. It also founded on the rights-based principles that facilitate an atmosphere where an individuals and communities can realize their potential and work towards their own evolution.

TASK	Achieved 2021	in Overall achievements since 2013
Number of SHGs formed	273	1,375
Number of beneficiaries belonging to SHGs	5460	45,230
Number of Children	39,732	271,380
Number of CLAs established	-	100
Number of Federation	-	2
Total Savings	\$378,760	\$3,277,660
Total Capital	\$379,222	\$3,668,901

The Approach focuses on social, economic, and political empowerments. It does this by investing in social capital and human capabilities, especially those of women with their children, to enable them to participate in decision-making at the household, community, and macro level and to lift themselves out of poverty. The SHG have created more than 38,906 businesses with vulnerable and marginalized woman as per region as below.



SHG Success story

My husband and I divorced three years ago, and we were homeless. So, we struggled, and our children's lives deteriorated since I couldn't afford daily meals and school payments.

My five kids couldn't eat thrice the amount and quit. After two years, I discovered a local self-help group. When the officer described how weekly savings, loan repayment, and business start-ups empower underprivileged women, I was eager to join.

While the officer was preparing the neighbourhood map, a neighbour pointed out my residence. My children were represented by white paper and five stones on the map. I ended up with the officer and the group, but not the process. I told the officer I couldn't join the group. She stated that I should join the SHG groups, and she would help me.

I was distracted, so I joined the group. Ayaan learned business planning, budgeting, debt payback, and profit and loss. Also, the gang goes to her bakery. It was quite useful in all ways. I sold cake and ice cream to a local elementary school.

I tried to wake him up, but he insisted we were all dreaming. In certain cases, I couldn't explain why his father abandoned us in our home. Our situation will never change, so I can sell the cake and ice cream at a profit. Rarely were they sold out. My daughter advised me to stop working and stay home with the kids. We'd starve if I stayed home.

My daughter's morning request was to make cake and ice cream. In addition to crying, I'm tempted to prepare more cakes and ice cream for both schools' cafeterias. It helped us feel better and less concerned about food.

In two months, I repaid the group's money by selling cake and ice cream. They educate us, and we discuss our future objectives. With my kids, I get more done, especially when testing pastries and ice cream. As a result, more kids, neighbours, and local businesses are buying our stuff, so our family life is changing.

7. COVID 19 RESPONSE



Awareness Raising on prevention of COVID19

40,000 beneficiaries in Hargeisa and Buroa also receive accurate information about COVID-19 prevention through to billboards, radio messages, and vehicle-based announcements targeting parents in IDPs. Network send a message on Radio Hargeisa. These messages were meant to raise awareness about the need to protect young girls from the horrible practice of FGM. The NAFIS Network broadcasted a radio message advocating for girls' rights. Through radio Hargeisa, an estimated 80,000 males, 80,000 females, 45,000 girls, and 45,000 boys



Respond to the effect of COVID-19 on the family economy.

Nafis has provided small cash awards to 30 women in Burao who members of a self-help group are to help them rebuild their business and livelihoods. The cash distribution was done via E-Dahab, the bank texted the list of recipients. As a result, depending on their location, beneficiaries may have to walk further than others, the cash awards enhanced their income.



Supporting adolescent girls in IDPs affected by COVID 19 by providing hygiene kits.

The NAFIS Network supports 2000 Hargeisa homes in In Kosar and Burao, IDPs got sanitary pads and soap. A reusable facemask was distributed to 1990 families in Hargeisa. The project attempts to protect Hargeisa's IDPs from COVID-19. Adolescent females in COVID-19-affected IDP families received hygiene kits. To prevent sickness spread, NAFIS was handed to beneficiaries' representatives who came to pick up hand-gloves and facemasks.

8. NAFIS DONOR

The NAFIS Network and the beneficiaries of our projects express gratitude to our long-term donors for their technical and financial assistance in serving our communities and achieving our goals of ending the harmful practice of female genital cutting (FGC) and empowering local communities to be free of all forms of domestic violence against women and girls.

