



NAFIS NETWORK ANNUAL REPORT 2023



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Message from the Executive Director.



“NAFIS Network is committed to sustainable goals that inspire change through teamwork and partnerships. Together, we empower communities and champion the rights of women and girls in Somaliland, ensuring a future where equality and justice prevail

Muse Jama
Executive Director
NAFIS NETWORK

I am delighted to present the Annual Report of 2023, highlighting a year marked by significant achievements and steadfast dedication to advancing the rights of women and young girls in Somaliland. Throughout the year, NAFIS Network has remained resolute in its mission to empower communities and champion gender equality. Our comprehensive human rights-driven approach, centered on capacity-building and community engagement, has delivered impactful outcomes.

In 2023, our focused efforts on capacity-building have yielded substantial results in empowering a diverse array of stakeholders to combat Female Genital Cutting (FGC) and Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG). Through targeted training of CSOs, educators, health workers, and community leaders, we have bolstered their skills and knowledge, thereby enhancing community awareness and support services. This collaborative endeavor has strengthened local networks and fortified our advocacy for policy reforms and community mobilization, with fostering a resilient and empowered society in Somaliland.

At NAFIS, we are steadfast in ensuring access to justice for survivors of gender-based violence (GBV). Our community mobilization efforts in Erigavo, El-Afwayn, Burao, and Hargeisa which have equipped participants with vital tools and knowledge to advocate for equal legal support for GBV survivors.

This commitment underscores our mission to create supportive environments where every individual can seek justice and empowerment. Together, we are advancing human rights, fortifying communities, and driving positive change.

Our integrated programs at NAFIS Network are designed to empower communities and drive sustainable change through initiatives such like Self-Help Groups (SHGs). In 2023, these initiatives led to the establishment of SHGs & CLAs, which is benefiting thousands of women who gained financial stability through entrepreneurial ventures. Supported by advocacy and leadership training, and our approach amplifies voices, promotes gender equality, and cultivates a future where everyone can thrive.

Furthermore, NAFIS health-focused initiatives strengthen community well-being through comprehensive programs. Leveraging Mobile Health Clinics and targeted services ensures accessible, quality care for underserved populations. In 2023, our efforts enhanced health outcomes through services including maternal care, general medical services, health education, and specialized care for adolescents and children, thereby improving community health and promoting sustainable development.

Looking forward, to draw inspiration from the resilience and dedication of our team and partners. Together, we reaffirm our commitment to building a future where every woman and girl can live with dignity and free from violence.

Thank you for joining us on this transformative journey. Together, we are creating a future where every girl has the opportunity to thrive.

Warm regards,

Muse Jama Isse
Executive Director

Our contribution to the SDGs

2030

3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING



The goal of SDG 3 is to ensure healthy life and promote wellbeing for all at all ages.

5 GENDER EQUALITY



The goal of SDG 5 is to achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls.

8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH



The goal of SDG 8 is to promote sustained, inclusive, and sustainable economic growth

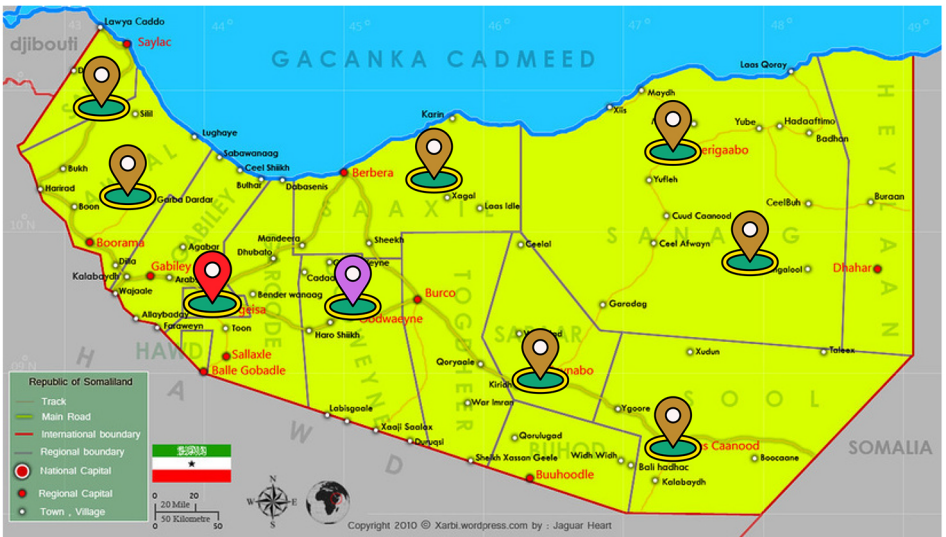
16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS



The goal of SDG 16 is to promote peaceful and inclusive provide peaceful and access to justice for all and build effective institutions.



NAFIS OPERATIONAL AREAS



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list of ABBreviations

CLAs	Cluster Level Associaitons
CSOs	Civil Society Organizations
FGC	Female Genital Cutting
IDPs	Internal Displaced Peoples
IEC	Information, Education and Communication
MESAF	Ministry of Employment, Social Affairs and Family
MoHD	Ministry of Health Development
NAFIS	Network Against FGC in Somaliland
NGOs	Non-governmental Organizations
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SHGA	Self-Help Groups Approach
VAWG	Violations Against Women and Girls

Our Strategy

The organization's strategy is based on giving communities the tools they need to address pressing urgent issues including Female Genital Cutting (FGC) in Somaliland and all Violence's Against Women and Girls (VAWG). We take a comprehensive and multifaceted approach, focusing on raising awareness, developing skills, providing services, and pushing for policy reforms, by actively interacting with communities, and important stakeholders. We hope to spark long-lasting change and foster a society that values human rights, gender equality, and the well-being of all its members.



Capacity building and knowledge sharing

We commit to build the capacity and fostering knowledge exchange, which we unlock continuously learning, developing new skills, and sharing insights. We empower individuals, organizations, and communities to tackle complex challenges more effectively in order to navigate an ever-changing world. We embrace these vital practices and work together to cultivate a more informed, capable, and resilient community in Somaliland.



Advocacy for Policy and Law

We advocate for comprehensive legal frameworks that protect the rights of women and girls, provide access to justice, and enable effective prevention and response to these issues. By championing policy reform, we aim to create an enabling environment that supports survivors, holds perpetrators accountable, and contributes to the eradication of VAWG and FGC. By raising our collective voices and engaging in the policymaking process, we push for the reforms needed to build a better future.



Support GBV survivors

We provide a variety of services to FGC survivors, including the health care, psychosocial support, and counseling. We put survivors' overall well-being at first by attending to their specific needs. We work together to prevent GBV and empower all people to live free from violence and oppression, by creating a more justice, equitable, and peaceful world where dignity, respect, and bodily autonomy.



Research & Documentation

We aim to generate evidence-based insights that inform our programs, interventions, and advocacy efforts, by partnering with academic institutions, experts, and communities. We seek to develop innovative approaches and strategies that are tailored to the local context. We empower ourselves and our communities to make more informed decisions, solve complex problems, and unlock new opportunities, and united in this endeavor, we unlock the full potential of human ingenuity and discovery.



Integrated Programs

We strive to build a better future, which champions the value of integrated programs, by breaking down silos and fostering holistic approaches, we unlock new pathways to progress, enhance the resilience of our communities, and create a more equitable, prosperous, and sustainable world for all. Our programs are designed to empower women holistically, encompassing various aspects of their lives, including livelihood support.



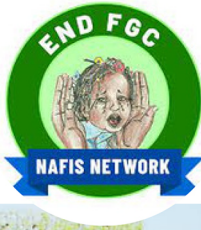
Media and Communication

We navigate an increasingly complex information landscape, with letting champion on media practices and communication strategies that serve the greater good; by harnessing these powerful tools, we cultivate more transparent, inclusive, and accountable societies, whether through written or spoken, our words have the power to inspire, educate, and galvanize collective action.



Partnership and Collaboration

We leverage collective expertise, resources, and networks to maximize our impact. By joining forces with like-minded organizations. We navigate the challenges ahead by embracing the power of partnership and collaboration, through bridging divides, aligning our efforts, and working in tandem, we foster greater equity and inclusion, and build a more prosperous, peaceful, and interconnected global community.



CAPACITY BUILDING AND KNOWLEDGE SHARING

NAFIS Network provides capacity building trainings to civil society organizations, school principals, teachers, women, young girls, youth, and community structures, which is essential to effectively combat the eradication of female genital cutting (FGC) and all violence's against women and young girls through empowering communities and promoting sustainable change.

Key achievements.

Empowering Civil Society Organizations

- 15 CSOs were trained through coordination meetings to advocate for policy changes, educate communities about human rights, and establish partnerships with key authorities and community groups. This enhanced community awareness and facilitated survivor-led services.
- 60 CSOs staff members were built through their capacity in advocacy, social accountability, and community engagement. This training sought to promote an inclusive and cooperative approach by improving participants' knowledge, abilities, and capacity to handle both VAWG and FGC.
- 20 local media practitioners from local TVs, Radio Hargeisa, and local journalists, were capacited to address the FGC issues and produce comprehensive storytelling programs.
- 95 participants (73 females, 22 males) from CSOs, government ministries, and the judiciary were trained to strengthen child protection information management skills, reporting, and understanding of international legal frameworks.
- 120 local and religious leaders equipped with knowledge and skills related to nutrition, health, and wellness. The goal was to enable the trained leaders to become ambassadors and champions of nutrition initiatives within the communities, in their districts and villages.



Empowering of Health Workers:

- 75 health workers from MCHs and health centers in Burao, Borama, and Hargeisa were trained in FGC knowledge, clinical management of survivors, community sensitization, psychosocial support (PSS), and referral pathways. These health professionals provide a psychosocial counseling and medical support for cases involving SGBV and SRHR, including rape and FGC complications.



- 10 public primary and secondary school teachers in Hargeisa were trained and sensitized about child protection management by change agents who regularly visited the schools in their districts. This training provides an overview of key principles, policies, and best practices for managing child protection programs. Effective child protection management requires a comprehensive, proactive, and collaborative approach to prioritize the rights and wellbeing of children.



Women & Young Girls' Empowerment:

- 160 women received intensive training to enhance their advocacy skills and empowering to combat circumcision and support women and girls. They now lead community initiatives against VAWG and FGC, through educating others and promoting supportive environments. These women conduct awareness campaigns and education programs.
- 152 women including social workers and community-based structures were trained on the rights of SGBV victims and survivors which is for equal access to justice and psychosocial support in eastern regions (Sool, Sanaag, and Togdheer) in Somaliland).
- 160 women participated in sensitization training sessions which is for educating about VAWG and FGC prevention and creating a supportive environment for women and young girls. These women facilitated community dialogues and awareness campaigns through enhanced and reinforced community-driven approach.
- 8 CLAs were institutionally strengthened through capacity-building training and coordination meetings, advocating for policy changes, engaging communities, and educating individuals about human rights violations against women and young girls.

Youth Empowerment:

- 240 university students were trained on FGC complications and organized awareness and peer-to-peer advocacy sessions, with reaching 1,800 young people in their universities.
- 6 Champions of Changes, both in Hargeisa and Burao IDPs, including six girls from minority groups were trained to enhance their knowledge and life skills on child protection, including SGBV.
- 120 local and religious leaders equipped with knowledge and skills related to nutrition, health, and wellness. The goal is to enable the trained leaders to become ambassadors and champions of nutrition initiatives within their communities.
- 114 men were trained on SGBV victims' and survivors' rights to equal access to justice.



- 30 child protection working group received training on child protection management and reporting, coordination, prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse, child protection minimum standards, and safeguarding principles.
- 63 participants from IDPs received training on child rights, SGBV, and life skills to develop self-esteem, confidence, decision-making abilities, assertiveness, leadership, social networks, and self-awareness. This helps to advocate for gender equality and elimination for all forms of VAWG and FGC throughout their districts.



ADVOCACY AND AWARENESS

NAFIS involves actively championing for the rights, needs, and perspectives of individuals or groups who lack the platforms or resources to advocate for themselves effectively. This can include lobbying lawmakers, engaging with policymakers, and building coalitions to demand systemic reforms. Effective advocacy empowers communities to become active agents of change, shaping the policies and institutions that impact their lives.

- NAFIS hires a legal advisor who conducts monthly consultation meetings with the parliament to advocate and lobby for the anti-FGC bill. This resulted in 20 legislators being promoted for laws and policies to stop VAWG and FGC. Three groups emerged: those opposing FGC, those accepting the "Sunna" type, and those unaware of the issue. A draft bill with seven articles prohibiting FGC was discussed with them.
- Anti-FGC policy was reviewed in collaboration with relevant ministries and religious leaders. A validation workshop harmonized ministry positions, leading to cabinet approval, which is now awaiting a final discussion with the president.
- Advocating for resource allocations for the services related to VAWG/FGC in the national budgeting for Somaliland, five-line ministries from MESAF, MORA, MOHD, MOJ, and MOHE reached out to 80 representatives from these institutions and promoted their understanding of the health complication of the FGC and dynamics of addressing VAWG.
- Regional authorities established partnerships with local CSOs and WROs/CLAs, with sharing information and undertaking joint initiatives to prevent and respond to VAWG/FGC. They reviewed policies and allocated resources for services related to VAWG/FGC.



- Six community mobilization and sensitization sessions on access to justice were conducted, with engaging 240 participants from Erigavo, El-Afwayn, Burao, and Hargeisa.
- Quarterly justice forums were supported in Burao and Hargeisa, with 240 participants from various justice institutions to discuss and develop strategies for enhancing access to justice.
- National and regional coordination meetings were conducted to advocate for the role of CSOs in eliminating VAWG/FGC in their intervention areas and to push the government and legislators to pass the policy and law on FGC.
- Bi-annual information sharing among trained health service providers has increased awareness of FGC health complications. This enabled MCH visitors, especially mothers, to protect their daughters and educate their families and neighbors. This provides a structured platform for organizational leaders to transparently communicate relevant updates, foster collaborative dialogue, and align stakeholders around shared objectives.

- **6** community mobilization and sensitization sessions on access to justice, has been conducted which aimed at engaging community members to respond to SGBV by improving access to quality legal services for GBV survivors. The sessions took place in Erigavo, El-Afweyn, Burao, and Hargeisa, with a total of **240** participants.
- **240** participants have been engaged on SGBV victims' and survivors' rights to equal access to justice by emphasizing the importance of quick, accurate, and sufficient legal representation to reduce SGBV in target locations. These rights is crucial for ensuring that SGBV victims and survivors receive the holistic, trauma-informed support they need to heal, seek justice, and rebuild their lives with dignity and agency.
- **600** women, representing 30% of the projected total of 2,000, publicly declared the abandonment of FGC within their communities, including their families. They also urged the government and parliament of Somaliland to endorse anti-FGC policies and legislation. Furthermore, ten schools near the locations of the selected CLAs were engaged by Change Agents and CLA social affairs committees to participate in the campaign against FGC. Teachers were encouraged to incorporate discussions about FGC complications into their subjects.



- **30** participants attended an annual forum for CSOs, WROs, and SHG federations to build common stands and released two joint statements against VAWG and FGC, primarily focusing on the passage of the anti-FGC policy and bill approval. Through regular and consecutive meetings, members of the Social and Human Rights Committee of the Somaliland Parliament were engaged to support the approval of the anti-FGC policy in Somaliland.
- **10** change agents have been hired from 10 CLAs to conduct trainings on advocacy and lobbying to eradicate FGC and engage the community. These change agents have reached 2,000 individuals who have made public declarations of zero tolerance for FGC at the end of the year.
- **160** women facilitated community dialogues and awareness campaigns through enhanced and reinforced community-driven SHGA. By fostering open dialogues and raising awareness, these initiatives catalyze a grassroots movement for social change, transforming communities into safe, supportive environments for all.
- **4** CLAs in Burao established partnerships with key authorities, community groups, and other stakeholders to enhance community awareness and link survivor-led services. Collaborative, coordinated action across these key stakeholders was essential for creating a holistic, survivor-centered approach to address the complex challenge of sexual and gender-based violence.



- NAFIS, in collaboration with CLAs at SHG program enhanced inter-ministerial engagement for supporting the enactment of the Anti-FGC policy, through consultation meetings. This enabled the CLA woman representatives to share with the ministries their concerns about FGC as a human rights violation against women and girls.
- 6 SGBV community-level awareness-raising sessions were conducted to reduce risks of abuse and neglect, address gender disparities, and support improved access to services for survivors of SGBV in 6 IDPs in Hargeisa and Burao. These sessions are linked to trained health professionals on psychosocial support. A total of 456 participants were reached through these sessions.
- 130 CLAs conducted monthly awareness sessions reaching 900 people individually, with totaling 10,800 people. Through SHG structures, 46,800 indirect beneficiaries were reached in Burao, Togdheer. By hosting these regular awareness sessions, communities can work towards creating an environment where SGBV is unacceptable, and survivors can access the support they need. These increases a knowledge and understanding of SGBV among community members and promotes a gender equality and challenge harmful social norms.
- A validation meeting for 20 people was conducted to develop an influencing strategy paper to help pass the FGC law. The plan was to serve as a catalyst for the law's adoption and passage. By conducting a comprehensive validation workshop, the government and civil society works as together to develop a robust and inclusive FGC law that reflects the needs and concerns of the community.
- 6 community-based child protection structures were established in 6 IDPs in Hargeisa (Statehouse, Hargeisa Stadium, Ayax 3, Aden Salebaan, Durdur and Kosaar IDPs). Each group consists of 12 members, totaling 72 members. These structures have the (chairperson, vice chair, secretary, etc.). They are empowering and supporting community-based structures, SGBV prevention and response efforts which can be more sustainable, context-specific, and responsive to the needs of the local population.
- 60 SHG women members participated in the awareness-raising session which is an opportunity for women SHG members to share their experiences with SGBV and learn about the consequences and negative impact of GBV on the well-being of women and girls.
- SHG Federation in Hargeisa, through 100 CLAs, conducted monthly awareness-raising sessions, with reaching 30 people individually. They reached 36,000 people in Hargeisa, including women in IDP camps and the host community. By empowering a network such like a committed CLAs through regular awareness-raising sessions, the community can become a driving force in the fight against FGC and empowerment for the women and young girls in Somaliland.



INTEGRATED PROGRAMS

WOMEN EMPOWERMENT THROUGH SHG APPROACH

In 2023, 263 Self-Help Groups (SHGs) comprising 5,230 women were formed and strengthened with the support of 12 SHG-promoting organizations, through capacity building and guidance from SHG national coordination office. These groups received technical guidance on functionality, meetings, structure, by-laws, record keeping, mutual support systems, savings, loan procedures, and repayment terms.

This comprehensive support enabled the women to start new businesses or expand existing ones by creating 4,850 enterprises. This initiative has significantly enhanced the economic independence of the members and contributed to community development, highlighting the powerful impact of SHGs on women's empowerment and local economies and the reduction of poverty.

In addition to the formation SHGs, 20 Cluster Level Associations (CLAs) were established to further support SHG members and promote community development. These CLAs serve as intermediary bodies, enhancing the effectiveness of SHGs by providing additional support in advocacy for decision-making bodies that affect the needs of women and children through capacity training, and coordination meetings. Through Cluster level associations, SHG members received more structured guidance and support, which facilitated the essential services have reached the community including the SHG members. The CLAs played a crucial role in ensuring that SHGs operated efficiently and contributed significantly to the socio-economic development of their communities.

At the apex of this hierarchy, 2 federations which is called Kaaba and Qaran Federations which consist of multiple CLAs, typically ranging from 30 to 70 CLAs are functionally working both in Maroodjeeh and Togdheer regions.



The Federation is the most extensive organizational structure within the SHG system, providing a unified platform for advocacy, policy influence, and large-scale economic initiatives. It ensures the sustainability and scalability of the SHG movement by offering advanced training, facilitating large-scale funding opportunities, and representing the interests of SHGs and CLAs at regional and national forums. This tiered structure, from individual SHGs to CLAs and finally to the Federation, ensures that the voices of the grassroots members are heard, and their needs are met through a well-organized and supportive network.

SHG national coordination office conducts a quarterly review meeting for SHG project officers to facilitate information sharing, staff learning, and capacity building for both SHGs and Cluster Level Associations (CLAs). These meetings are crucial for exchanging best practices, addressing challenges, and enhancing the overall effectiveness of SHG initiatives.

By fostering a collaborative environment, these sessions ensure that SHG project officers are well-equipped with the knowledge and skills needed to support SHGs and CLAs effectively, ultimately contributing to the socio-economic development of the communities they serve and promoting decision-making at community development and sustainability.

The bi-annual directors meetings are pivotal gatherings where achievements, challenges, and learnings from Self-Help Group (SHG) programs are shared and discussed. These meetings offer a platform for directors to review current SHG statistics, assess progress toward program objectives, and address any obstacles encountered. Additionally, they provide an opportunity to ensure transparency and accountability through the dissemination of feedback from monitoring visits.

By fostering collaboration and open dialogue, these meetings contribute to the continuous improvement and sustainability of SHG initiatives, ultimately empowering members and driving positive change within communities. It also discussed on open discussion on potential opportunities, threats, and emerging trends

The experience sharing among executive members of Federations in Hargeisa and Burao plays a crucial role in enhancing the effectiveness and sustainability of Self-Help Group (SHG) initiatives. Through these interactions, executive members exchange valuable insights, lessons learned, and best practices gained from their respective experiences in leading SHG activities. This collaborative approach fosters a culture of learning and continuous improvement within the Federations, enabling executive members to identify innovative solutions to common challenges, streamline processes, and strengthen the overall management of SHG programs. By leveraging their collective knowledge and expertise, these executive members can drive greater impact and empower SHG members to achieve their socio-economic goals effectively.

Overall, the biannual directors meeting is an invaluable platform for the approaches leadership to align, innovate, and drive the long-term sustainability and impact of their work.

By continuously refining the format and content of these meetings, the SHGA can ensure that its directors remain engaged, empowered, and united in their pursuit of the common mission.

The Federation Strengthening and Capacity Building initiatives led by the National Coordination Office, focus on enhancing leadership, management, and record-keeping skills among executive members and 2 selective representatives from cluster-level associations. Through targeted training sessions and workshops, executive members receive guidance on strategic leadership, efficient management practices, and maintaining accurate records. Additionally, the capacity-building efforts address the specific responsibilities of each sub-committee, including finance, administration, linkages with other service providers, and social welfare, ensuring a holistic approach to Federation governance. Challenges and achievements are systematically addressed and shared, fostering a culture of continuous improvement and collective problem-solving within the Federations.

Overall, these initiatives empower executive members to lead with confidence, strengthen Federation operations, and ultimately enhance the support provided to Self-Help Groups (SHGs) and their members.



STRENGTHENING HEALTH SYSTEM IN SOMALILAND

In the year 2023, NAFIS NETWORK undertook a comprehensive initiative aimed at a Mobile Health Clinic. The Mobile Health Clinic has been successful in reaching a significant number of individuals within the catchment area and providing them with essential healthcare services. The dedication and commitment of the mobile team have contributed to improving the health outcomes and overall well-being of the community.

- The Mobile Health Clinic in Togdheer has been providing a comprehensive range of healthcare services to the local population in its catchment area. The dedicated mobile team has been instrumental in delivering these services directly to the community, ensuring accessibility and convenience for individuals who may face challenges in accessing healthcare facilities. The following are the key services offered by the mobile team including parental care, general medical service, health education and counseling, adolescent health, child health care, health screenings, and Medications and Referrals.



Table 1: Healthcare beneficiaries reached in 2023

Catchment area Name	Women		<5 Children		>5 / Adolescent		Male (Adult)	Total
	Pregnant	Non-Pregnant	Male	Female	Male	Female		
Barwaqo IDP	25	342	43	72	73	63	130	748
Xayirka IDP	36	335	59	32	50	43	121	698
18 May IDP	27	403	45	44	39	54	116	728
Alla-aamin IDP	39	425	59	58	39	48	102	770
Qoryale	160	1,121	242	215	182	208	640	2,768
Kalbarre	85	800	119	96	83	89	573	1,845
Total	372	3,418	567	517	470	511	1,729	7,557
Catchment area Name	Children and Adolescent						Total	
	0-12 Months		13months-5 Yrs.		>5 Yrs. – 18 Yrs.			
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female		
Barwaqo IDP	13	13	38	49	73	63	249	
Xayirka IDP	21	7	38	22	50	43	175	
18 May IDP	8	13	37	46	39	54	164	
Alla-aamin IDP	14	17	45	41	39	48	185	
Qoryale	63	38	179	177	182	208	772	
Kalbarre	36	23	102	93	83	89	387	
Total	155	111	439	431	470	511	2,117	

MATERIAL SERVICES



- 120 child-friendly materials were distributed to children including 8 children with disabilities in and out of schools in targeted IDPs in Burao. The materials included jump ropes, footballs, school bags, books, toys, puzzles, pens, pencils, erasers, rollers, colored pens, and hand wash. These materials helped children interact with their peers and supported their psychosocial well-being. The distribution of child-friendly materials is a valuable way to engage and support children in an age-appropriate manner. When designed with children's developmental needs and interests in mind, these types of materials can serve a variety of important purposes:



- 180 family cooking demonstrations focusing on food nutrition were conducted for women, youth, and persons with disabilities (PWDs) in the Carro-Malko and Garbo-Haadley villages, the project's target areas. These demonstrations aimed to empower the local community by providing them with the necessary skills and knowledge to enhance their diets and improve the nutrition status of their families, with a particular emphasis on children.
- 120 individuals, including 80 individuals from existing Self-Help Group (SHG) members in two villages, received hygiene kits, which significantly promoted personal hygiene and encouraged household and individual care practices.
- 38 individuals from established Self-Help Groups (SHGs) in the target villages received solar panels. The distribution of energy-saving technologies improved the use of technology in various ways, such as charging mobile devices, providing lighting during the night, and studying and working at night for the children of these communities.
- 175 members participated, sharing their achievements, exchanging lessons learned, and addressing current challenges in quarterly meetings with CF and the key SHG committee to support SHG women in establishing a collective business in Garbo-Hadley and Carro-Malko. The business will help with the sustainability of social and economic perspectives.



SUPPORT GBV SURVIVORS

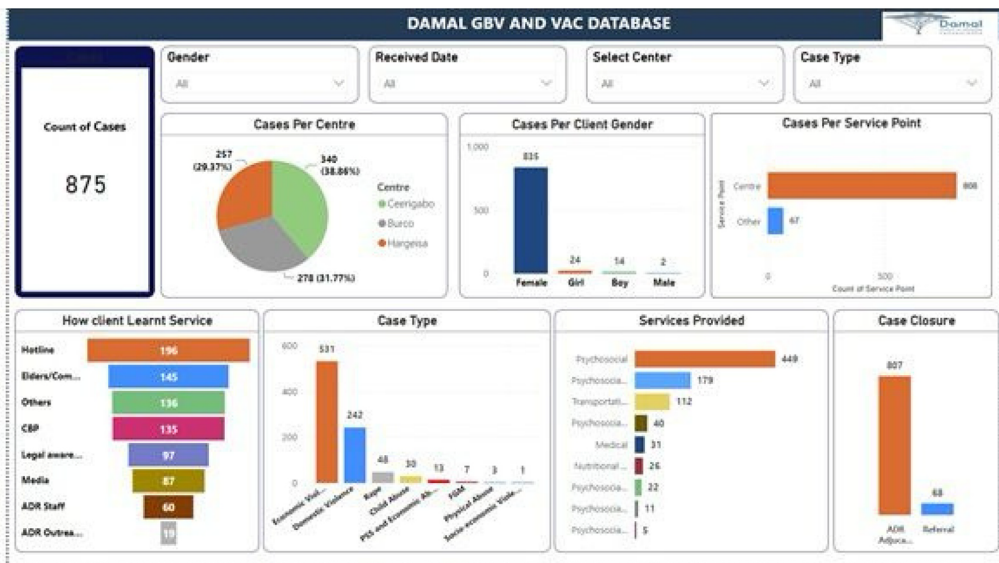


Table 2: Damal GBV and VAC database

Over the past year (2023), the Erigavo, Hargeisa, and Burao ADR Centers received a referred total of **263** cases of GBV, **159** family disputes (FD), **81** of domestic violence (DV), **5** cases of FGC, and **18** cases of rape. The Hargeisa ADR referred **70** cases, the Burao ADR referred **78** cases and the Erigavo ADR referred **45** cases.

NAFIS committed to providing survivors of GBV with a supportive, safe environment, referrals, and advocacy to ensure that survivors receive a couple of services from different service providers to promote access to justice and lower GBV-related problems in the community.

According to the services offered, **89** cases received transportation help, **31** cases received medical support, **31** cases received livelihood support, and **130** cases of psychological counseling support.

24 cases have been supported by 6 IDPs which is in both Burao and Hargeisa. 16 cases were Koosaar IDP, 2 cases were Barwaaqo IDP, 5 cases were Hargeisa Stadium IDP, and 1 case was in Ayax 3 IDP. For this case, NAFIS has supported for livelihood, medical, nutrition, and psychosocial. The cases were 3 rape, 11 neglected child, 2 burning, 4 disability child, 3 parental separate and 1 child pregnancy. 36% of the cases were referred and 62% were get direct support.

The majority of the children served by the project fell into the 0–5 years age group, comprising 50% of the cases. Many of the protection concerns reported for these young children were related to neglect. This highlights that children under the age of 5 are particularly vulnerable to neglect. Their lack of access to basic needs puts them at a heightened risk of abuse, including rape, discrimination, early marriage, pregnancy, and parenthood.



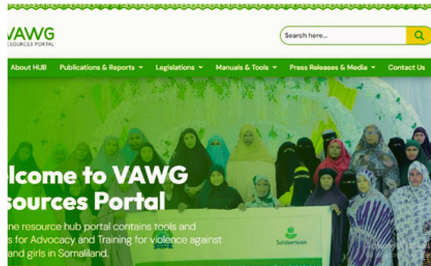
END FGM



MEDIA AND COMMUNICATION

NAFIS encompass the various channels, technologies, and practices involved in the creation, dissemination, and consumption of information, ideas, and messages within society. The communication channels cover both the traditional media like print, radio, and television, as well as the rapidly evolving digital and social media landscape.

- Produced 2 awareness-raising dramas on June 17 and December 29, which, emphasizing the importance of access to justice for women and girls and the services available at ADR centers.
- Developed and distributed 400 stickers, 400 T-shirts, 400 scarves, 400 hats, and 12 billboards with messages related to access to justice for women and girls.
- Created a Management Information System (MIS) to manage GBV/VAC cases, enhancing data management, trend analysis, and real-time monitoring and reporting.
- Conducted VAWG/FGC TV debates and advocacy, inviting lawyers, social activists, and government bodies to discuss the prevalence, challenges, opportunities, and current resources related to GBV and FGC in Somaliland. This debate was aired on SAAB TV and reached more than 3,000 people.
- Established an online hub for CSOs and WROs/CLAs to share materials and resources on VAWG/FGC prevention, including publications, manuals, research papers, and other relevant content.
- Used effectively, social media for the organization, which is a transformative tool for advocacy and lobbying, helping to influence public opinion, mobilize grassroots support, and ultimately drive positive change. However, it's important to approach these efforts strategically and with a strong understanding of best practices.





RESEARCH AND DOCUMENTATION

NAFIS conducts a research and documentation skills which are essential across a wide range of academic, professional, and creative disciplines. They enable informed decision-making, contribute to the advancement of knowledge, and ensure the credibility and integrity of scholarly or analytical work. In this year there were manuals which have been developed in order to capacitate and train about the different target beneficiaries for the projects.

MATERIAL DEVELOPED

- NAFIS has developed a manual on inclusive community consultation and mobilization, feedback, and compliance mechanisms.
- NAFIS has developed an Advocacy and Lobbying Manual to help the community understand advocacy, its basic elements, how advocacy is conducted, and how they can advocate against violence against women and girls.
- NAFIS has developed a manual on integrating FGM/C into other developmental and humanitarian programs.

ARTICLES DEVELOPED

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- NAFIS has developed a manual on integrating FGM/C into other developmental and humanitarian programs.





“Your hard work and unwavering dedication are the foundation of your continued success. I am honored to work alongside such a remarkable team.”

**Dr. Abdirahman O. Gaas
Former NAFIS Executive
Director**

I wanted to take a moment to express my deepest gratitude and appreciation for each and every member of the NAFIS team. The past 12 years have been the most priceless moments of my career, and I am in awe of the unwavering commitment and resilience you have all shown.

Despite the uncertainties we have faced, you have risen to the occasion with remarkable dedication. Whether it's been adapting to the work, taking on additional responsibilities, or finding innovative ways to support our communities, your efforts have been truly inspiring.

Your willingness to adapt alongside us, embrace new ways of engaging, and continue championing our vision and mission has been remarkable. Your resilience and adaptability have been instrumental in allowing us to maintain our focus and continue serving our community effectively.

As we witness NAFIS Network grow, expand operations, build partnerships, and make a significant impact on issues like FGM and women's empowerment, I am confident in our future.

To my successor, I am confident in your capacities and leadership, having witnessed your dedication and expertise firsthand within the NAFIS Network team. Your selection to lead NAFIS Network is a testament to your commitment to our mission and your ability to inspire positive change

Together, you will continue to innovate, advocate, and empower, ensuring NAFIS Network's legacy of positive change endures.

Thank you all for your exceptional service and dedication.

**Dr. Abdirahman O. Gaas
Former NAFIS Executive Director**



Title: A Journey of Resilience: The Story of Fatima and Her Family

Fatima, a resilient woman from the rural village of Wadajir in Gabiley, embodies the transformative impact of the Self-Help Group (SHG) project on individual lives and family dynamics. This narrative delves into Fatima's journey, highlighting the challenges she faced, the interventions provided through the SHG project, and the positive changes experienced by her family.

Fatima, a 35-year-old mother of six children, found herself struggling to make ends meet in Wadajir village in Gabiley. With limited access to education and livelihood opportunities, Fatima's family lived in poverty, facing daily hardships exacerbated by health challenges and economic instability. When the SHG project started in 2022, Fatima's life was a beacon of hope, offering her the opportunity to break free from the cycle of poverty and transform her family's future. Through the project's interventions, Fatima became a member of an SHG, joining hands with other women in her community to embark on a journey of empowerment and solidarity.

With training and support from the SHG project, Fatima learned new skills in business management and started small selling vegetables, enabling her to generate additional income for her family. Through the Barwaaqo SHG, Fatima accessed microloans and savings facilities, empowering her to invest in her business for family's well-being and future. Fatima participated in health awareness sessions and received support for maternal and child healthcare, ensuring the well-being of her family members.

Fatima's participation in the SHG empowered her to become a successful entrepreneur, generating income through her vegetable ventures and contributing to her family's financial stability. With access to healthcare services and nutrition support, Fatima's family experienced improved health outcomes, reducing the burden of illness, and enhancing their quality of life.

Fatima emerged as a leader within her SHG, advocating for women's rights and actively participating in community development initiatives, fostering a sense of empowerment and solidarity among women in her village. Fatima's journey exemplifies the transformative power of the SHG project in empowering individuals and families to overcome adversity and achieve sustainable development. Through strategic interventions and community support, Fatima and her family have emerged stronger, resilient, and hopeful for the future.

As we celebrate Fatima's success story, we are reminded of the countless individuals and families whose lives have been transformed through the SHG project, underscoring the importance of collective action and solidarity in creating positive change within communities.



A 70-year-old grandmother visited the mobile health team at Alla-Amin IDP in Burao, Togdheer. She complained of experiencing breathlessness during physical activity or exertion, which had been ongoing for the past two months. Additionally, she had been feeling dizzy and lightheaded on multiple occasions. The grandmother had fallen down several times, particularly when getting up from a seated position, resulting in an injury to her right arm.

Furthermore, she had oral ulcers, peeling lips, and a change in lip color. Due to her impoverished status, she had been unable to afford a visit to a health center. Instead, she had relied on herbal remedies from the local area, which had provided no relief. She had also sought help from a religious leader, believing that her frequent falls were due to a heavenly curse.

Upon receiving this patient the mobile health team conducted a clinical assessment, including a thorough history and physical examination. A blood sample was taken, and the results confirmed a hemoglobin level of 6 mg/dl, confirming a diagnosis of Iron Deficiency Anemia.

The doctor prescribed Ferrous sulfate tablets and a multivitamin syrup for her to take for a duration of two weeks. After two weeks, the grandmother returned for a follow-up visit and reported a significant improvement in her condition. She no longer experienced breathlessness or dizziness and expressed her gratitude, saying that she could now go anywhere on foot.

Previously, she would become breathless and have to stop if she tried to leave her home. She greatly appreciated the mobile health team for bringing healthcare services directly to her home.

The grandmother was then prescribed an iron supplement for another month, and her overall health and quality of life had significantly improved. This serves as a remarkable demonstration of how a simple intervention can potentially save lives for individuals residing in remote and inaccessible areas.

Success Story: Asma's Fight for Justice:

Asma, a 15-year-old deaf girl, from small village near Ainaba District faced unimaginable challenges when she was raped and got impregnated by her stepfather. Despite the trauma she endured, Asma displayed remarkable courage and resilience throughout her journey towards seeking justice and was brought to WAAPO which she and her mother received counseling, referral and advocacy.

After giving birth to a baby boy, Asma's stepfather denied any involvement in the crime. Determined to hold him accountable, her mother fought for the justice of her deaf daughter, MESAF GBV working group supported her and pursued legal action, including a DNA test to establish paternity which was fully paid for by NEFIS Network.

The results conclusively proved the stepfather's guilt, leading to his conviction in a court of law. Justice prevailed as the perpetrator was sentenced to 9 years in prison and ordered to pay \$4000 in restitution. This outcome not only served as a form of closure for Asma and her child but also sent a powerful message that perpetrators of such heinous crimes would face consequences for their actions. Despite the harrowing ordeal she faced, Asma's mother's bravery, resilience, and pursuit of justice serve as an inspiration to survivors of similar injustices.

Her story highlights the importance of advocacy, legal support, and the unwavering determination to seek justice in the face of adversity. Asma's journey stands as a testament to the strength of the human spirit and the possibility of achieving justice even in the most challenging circumstances.



Training CLAs on advocacy and lobbying to influence key authorities.



National consultation meeting for advocating anti-FGC bill and policy.



Biannual meeting for capacitated teachers in Borama



Strengthening 3 community based structures in Burao IDPs



Refresher CLA formation training for SHG project officers and community facilitators.



Quarterly awareness raising with key community gatekeepers.



Child protection structures training in Burao



Biannual meeting for capacitated teachers in Borama



Towfiq SHG - Borama



Onkod SHG - Gabiley



Tawakal SHG - Berbera



Barwaaqo SHG - Berbera



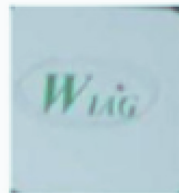
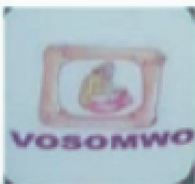
Ugbad SHG - Borama



Hoobaan SHG - Borama



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