



INTERNATIONAL
SOLIDARITY
FOUNDATION

Performance Report 2018–2021

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1. Introduction

This Performance Report should be read together with ISF’s 2021 Annual Report to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA), which is prepared in Finnish, and the ISF Development Cooperation Programme 2018–2021. This Performance Report and the MFA Report constitute ISF’s Annual Report 2021, as well as ISF’s Programme Report 2018–21. The Performance Report is designed to have minimal overlap with the MFA Report. The content of both documents is summarized below.

Performance Report 2018–21:

- Changes in ISF operating environment
- Results, impact, and lessons learned from ISF’s development programme (ISF programme objectives 1–2)

MFA Report (mainly covering 2021):

- Civil society space in programme countries and how ISF strengthens it (ISF programme objective 3)
- Relevance of ISF programme for Finnish development policy priorities (incl. inequality, gender, climate change, human rights, disabled people)
- Communication and global education in Finland (ISF programme objective 3)
- Results-based management
- Administration
- Programme funding and financial reporting.

2. Executive summary

2021 was the last year of ISF's 2018–2021 development cooperation programme, which had the following objectives:

- Local economies are economically and ecologically sustainable
- Women and men are empowered to prevent violence against women
- People and communities are empowered as instigators of global change

COVID-19 impacted all ISF programme countries and had a disruptive effect on the lives of programme beneficiaries when it spread at the beginning of 2020. All programme areas were impacted, and the preventive measures taken by the Governments forced ISF to quickly adapt to the new environment: some activities were postponed or replaced with new

activities. In most projects, this did not significantly impact the expected outcomes and results although programme beneficiaries had to cope with new challenges and their quality of life was severely affected.

In Somaliland, the effects of COVID-19 coincided with droughts, floods, and desert locust invasions. This triple effect hampered the effectiveness of ISF livelihood projects in Somaliland. In Nicaragua, the political crisis ongoing since 2018—together with COVID-19—have entailed major losses and unemployment for many people and industries, including the handicraft sector, which is highly dependent on tourism.

The programme reached close to 25,000 direct beneficiaries, of which 65% were women. In total, it benefited over 200,000 people, of which 60% were women.

Different beneficiaries reached by ISF programme in 2018–2021

	Direct	Women %	Indirect	Women %	Total	Women %
Kenya	14 356	67%	100 078	50%		52%
Somaliland	9 748	64%	79 422	70%	89 170	70%
Nicaragua	732	50%	3 800	53%	4 532	52%
TOTAL	24 836	65%	183 300	59%	208 136	60%

During the 4 years, 14 projects were implemented in three countries (see Annex 1). 13 projects were implemented by local partners and one directly by ISF. In Kisii and Nyamira counties in Kenya, ISF's local partners implemented three projects to prevent violence against women and girls (VAWG), particularly female genital mutilation (FGM), and two projects to promote women's livelihood. In addition, ISF established Muungano Gender Forum in 2018 to create a conducive multi-stakeholder platform to promote gender issues in the two counties. In Somaliland, ISF had six projects with local partners to support women's livelihoods and prevent violence against women. In Nicaragua, ISF had two projects to support the climate resilience of local farmers and the livelihoods of local artisans.

The most significant results achieved in 2018–2021 include (described in more detail in Chapter 4):

- The business of 1772 agricultural and craft entrepreneurs (1282 women) evolved, and commercialization of four farmer cooperatives, five micro food businesses, one artisan network, four artisan cooperatives and 124 artisan workshops strengthened.
- 450 artisans and 2700 farmers benefitted from services developed in the ISF programme.

- In Somaliland, the yearly sales value of new crops increased 123% in four years. In Nicaragua, the yearly sales value of farm products quadrupled in three years.
- By 2021, the rainwater collection capacity in dry areas increased to 280,000m³, which provides irrigation water for over 700 farms and families (about 3900 people) in Nicaragua and Somaliland.
- Over 1600 family farms implement more sustainable farming practices and over 800 ha of soil was protected from erosion.
- Awareness of the negative health effects of FGM, of the Anti-FGM Law (in Kenya) and of religious misunderstandings around FGM (in Somaliland) increased
- Percentage of people aiming to leave their daughters uncut reached 76% in the Kenyan target communities, and up to 85% in the most progressive target communities in Somaliland.
- Increasingly, sensitized duty bearers act upon their enhanced understanding on the prevalence, harmfulness, and preventability of FGM. Majority addressed the topic when reaching out to their audiences.

3. Changes in operating environment

The operating environment in ISF's programme areas is described in the 2018–2021 programme document. This chapter lists the main changes in the operating environment during the programme period and describes in more detailed some changes that took place in 2021 in each country. As COVID-19 pandemic had similar, significant impact on all programme countries, it is described separately.



COVID-19

COVID-19 impacted all ISF programme countries and had a disruptive effect on ISF operations and the lives of programme beneficiaries when it spread at the beginning of 2020. By January 2022, Kenya has reported 315,000 cases and 5,500 deaths. Somalia including Somaliland has reported approximately 25,000 cases and 1,350 fatalities (Somaliland estimates are 8,400 cases and nearly 600 deaths). The official figures, however, only represent a small portion of actual cases in these countries.

In Nicaragua, the official figures are even less reliable as the government undermines the dangers of the virus and hardly maintains any registers. According to Observatorio Ciudadano (COVID monitoring network by the civil society), some 13,000 COVID-19 cases and 3,000 deaths had been reported until September 2021.

Somalia including Somaliland received first consignment of vaccines in March 2021, and vaccinated an estimated 300,000 frontline workers, elderly, and people with chronic health conditions. Since March 2021, Somalia has received several other consignments of vaccine. However, the COVID-19 vaccination uptake among the general population remains low: less than 1% of the population in Somalia have so far been fully vaccinated. In Kenya, 29% of adults were fully vaccinated (2 doses) by March 2022.

COVID-19 and some of the preventive measures (such as

closure of schools and marketplaces, curfews and lockdowns) have had catastrophic bi-effects on the lives of many women and girls. Closures of marketplaces, curfews and lockdowns imposed in Kenya and Somaliland, and complete stop of tourism in Nicaragua, resulted in severe income losses for women. COVID-19 affected employment in the program areas, farms and artisan companies employed new people in 2018 and 2019, but the number of employees collapsed since 2020. Economic hardship, together with isolation at home, have increased tensions and violence within many households. In both Kenya and Somalia, economic challenges and school closures also entailed an increase in FGM and child marriage cases.

COVID-19 had impact on all ISF programme areas, and the preventive measures taken by the Governments forced ISF to quickly adapt to the new environment: activities were postponed or replaced with new activities. For example, large gatherings and face-to-face trainings were cancelled in all countries, and carried out in smaller outdoor groups, or moved to digital platforms. In projects that focus on SGBV awareness raising, this did not significantly impact the expected outcomes, as the traditional means of disseminating information were relatively quickly replaced with alternative methods (such as social media, WhatsApp groups, interactive voice response systems, vehicle-based announcements). In the livelihood programme, the negative impact on expected outcomes was more severe.



Kenya

During the programme period, COVID-19 was the major factor impacting ISF operating environment in Kenya. In 2021, the 3rd wave of the pandemic hit the country. The government introduced preventive measures to curb the pandemic. School closures, restrictions on movement, bans on social gatherings, and limitations on economic activities hit Kenya's socioeconomic life, inducing income losses and food insecurity, exacerbated by a locust invasion. In ISF projects, this manifested in a notable reduction in saving rates of beneficiaries and inability to purchase productive inputs.

The cost of living skyrocketed in the country recording a 12-month inflation rate of 5.90 in March 2021. Input price fluctuations and rising cost of fuel limited the profitability of farming. Heavy and destructive rains and hailstorms coupled with soil erosion and pro-longed dry periods with little or no rainfall reduced harvest. Many women were forced to replant their gardens, which increased production costs.

At the UN Women led Generation Equality Forum in Paris in June 2021, President Uhuru Kenyatta announced concrete, actionable steps to end all forms of GBV in Kenya by 2026, backed by up to \$23 million for prevention and response, research and data collection, and the establishment of a survivors' fund. The commitments were fuelled by dedicated civil society organizations and advocates that collectively collaborated with the government to step up for gender equality.

Somaliland

Triple effect of droughts and floods, COVID-19 and desert locust invasions hampered the effectiveness of the livelihood projects in Somaliland. The effect is reflected, among others, in reduced

handicraft sales and food production volumes, and more than 200 farmers were unable to return the seeds they borrowed to the seed bank.

The 2021 deyr (October-November) was the third consecutive below-average rainfall season since late 2020, and persistent drought is leading to one of the worst deyr harvests on record. More than 3.2 million people in 66 out of Somalia's 74 districts are experiencing the cumulative impacts of three consecutive below-average rainy seasons. Many families have lost their means of livelihood, and 169,000 people have abandoned their homes in search of water, food, and pasture. In Iskudar village, in turn, the flood water from river washed away most of the farms alongside the stream, contaminated community wells and made roads impassable. However, the dam constructed in the ISF programme was not destroyed and it remained the major source of (undrinkable) water for the communities. In Togdheer region, nearly 23,500 hectares of farmland and 34,500 hectares of rangeland were infested and destroyed by the Desert Locust. At the same time, prices of basic commodities, including food, have significantly risen above the reach of most families. High inflation rate has caused public outcry and constitutes a risk to peace and stability in Somaliland.

Regarding the FGM prevention efforts, a fatwa (legal opinion on a point of Islamic law) was issued by the Ministry of Religious Affairs in 2018. It banned pharaonic FGM but legitimized milder forms of cutting, without clearly defining the banned and unbanned practices. Various meeting between Anti-FGM stakeholders and the Ministry were held to address the problematic wording, but no amendment in the wording has so far been done. Instead, in the latter half of 2021, the process to establish a national Anti-FGM Policy based on zero tolerance to all forms of FGM was intensified. Key stakeholders arranged regular meetings to identify remaining points of disagreement

and means to implement the policy. At the moment, advocacy is ongoing for the policy to be approved by the Cabinet of Ministers.

Parliamentary and local elections were held on 31st May 2021, after delay of 16 and 9 years respectively. The voter turnout was roughly 65% of the registered voters. Opposition parties won 52 seats (63.4%) in the House of Representatives, while the ruling received 30 seats (36.6%). For the local councils, the ruling Kulmiye party secured 93 council seats while Wadani party won 79 seats and UCID 48 seats. The opposition parties won altogether 127 out of the 220 local council seats, and thereby mayors of 5 out of the 7 big cities in Somaliland. Female candidates did not win a single seat in the House of Representatives, and only three female candidates won local council seats. The election hence worsened women's political representation in Somaliland.

Nicaragua

During the programme period, major changes in the operating environment include the political crisis since 2018 and COVID-19. The Creative Manufacture and Handmade (CMH) sector has suffered major losses and unemployment during the pandemic. One important reason for this is the sector's high dependence on tourism. Business associations in Nicaragua estimate that about 217,000 people lost their job in 2020 due to the recession caused by the political crisis and COVID-19. Most artisans in the ISF project had to look for another type of employment, or even leave the country, to try to ensure the family subsistence.

Since the political crisis, people are reluctant to participate in activities that could be seen as any form of civic activism. Among ISF beneficiaries there are Sandinistas and non-Sandinistas, and the latter feel threatened when participating in trainings and sessions that might be considered political, such as women

empowerment trainings. Therefore, ISF programme could not carry out gender norm and violence prevention activities as planned.

In 2021, the social and political situation in Nicaragua has been even more tense and the Sandinista government has converted the country into a police state where freedom of speech and movement of opposition members was controlled by armed forces. The Sandinista government prepared for the November 2021 presidential election by arresting potential opponents and campaign organizers and disbanding two opposition parties. In the elections the Central Electoral Commission gave the Sandinistas more than 75% of the vote. The United States and the European Union have expressed that they do not consider the Nicaraguan elections to be legitimate and democratic. They continued imposing sanctions against members of Sandinista party. Since the elections, Nicaragua has become increasingly isolated internationally. Nicaragua was ranked 131st out of 139 countries in the Rule of Law Index (World Justice Project), which measures the realization of citizens' rights, good governance and the functioning of the justice system.

The government of Nicaragua banned 57 NGOs, for example, women's and human rights organizations. This was possible by Foreign Agents Law (approved in October 2020) which expands government powers to control civil society, confiscate their resources and ban them from operating.

In a survey commissioned by the World Bank in 2021, 44% of respondents said the family income level had fallen while food and other commodity prices had risen. The World Bank estimates that 14.6% of Nicaraguans lived in poverty in 2021. It is estimated that more than 100,000 Nicaraguans migrated in 2021 to work abroad.

4. Results and impact

This chapter lists the main achievements and impact made during the programme period by programme objective. For objectives 1-2, main achievements in 2018-21 in general and per country are described, while results of objective 3 are written in the annual MFA Report. Under each outcome, focus is on outcomes and related activities in 2021, the last year of implementation. Lessons learnt and development process conducted in 2018-21 are also reported with the outcome to which they are mostly related.

Objective 1 – Local economies are economically and ecologically sustainable

In 2021, ISF supported five projects that focus on strengthening entrepreneurship and enhancing small-scale farmers' climate resilience. In Nicaragua, one project was implemented by a network of artisans. In Somaliland, partner NGOs implemented two projects together with local cooperatives, farmers and craftswomen. In Kenya, one project was implemented by women's cooperative, while the other project, administered by ISF, enhanced the leadership and management capacity of women farmers' CBO. Additionally, one livelihood project implemented in Nicaragua was finalised before 2021.

Major achievements during the programme period 2018-21 are:

- ISF developed the business of 1772 agricultural and craft entrepreneurs (1282 women), including 300 female petty traders in IDP camps (internally displaced persons) in Somaliland. ISF directly improved commercialization of four farmer cooperatives, five micro food businesses, one artisan network, four artisan cooperatives and 124 artisan workshops.
- About 450 artisans and 2700 farmers benefit from services developed in the ISF programme, such as agriculture experiment sites, product development and quality systems, peer and expert advice services, seed bank, village early warning mechanisms and finance and marketing services.
- ISF succeeded in launching new income generating activities. In Somaliland, the yearly sales value of new crops increased 123% between 2018 and 2021, being \$56,644 in 2021. In Nicaragua, the yearly sales value of farm products quadrupled in three years, being \$1,543,986 at the end of 2020 (final year of the project). In Kenya, the yearly sales value of indigenous vegetables was about \$32,000 in 2021.
- One of ISF programme priorities was to improve water availability in dry areas. By 2021, the rainwater collection capacity increased to 280,000m3, which provides irrigation water for over 700 farms and families (about 3900 people) in Nicaragua and Somaliland.
- Over 1600 family farms implement more sustainable farming practices and over 800 ha of soil was protected from erosion by (agro-)forestation, construction of irrigation systems and soil bunds to reduce flood erosion.

Kenya specific achievements:

- The establishment of advisory system that will support about 1300 farmers (mostly women). The system consists of a peer advise system, regular contacts with Nyamira county extension service and FAO, expert collaboration with companies and partner-owned demo farms and pre-processing plants. This quality control and product development system is a prerequisite for entering new, formal markets.
- Introduction of new products, technologies and practices in farming and post-harvest handling. As a result, women farmers sell mushrooms, practice vertical farming of vegetables, produce organic manure and practice soil conservation methods.
- The cooperation with companies, particularly with Böna Factory and Mace Foods, has improved farmers' and partners' capacity in post-harvest handling and improving food safety. Farmers have learnt that it is possible to enter to new markets and get better unit prices by improving end-product quality, for example nutrient retention.

Somaliland specific achievements:

- Farmers' improved climate adaptation capacity enhanced families' nutritional status. In Togdheer, 93% of the 400 farmers reported they have enough food during the critical months of the year, compared to the project baseline level of only 28%. Almost all families stored food after harvest to eat or sell in dry season. In Sahil, the average household income more than doubled between 2020 and 2021. These results are significant, given the compounding effects of drought and floods, desert locust infestation, and the socio-economic impacts of COVID-19 in 2020-2021.
- The introduction of seed banking technology and building of local seed selection and testing capacity will have a long-term impact in Togdheer and even at the national level. A total of 754 farmers used tested, drought resistant seeds from the seed bank in 2021. The University of Burao, Beer Agriculture College and Sheikh ISTVS IGAD

University make use of the seed trials and multiplication sites, greenhouses and seed bank in research and teaching.

- Women's livelihood is improved in Somaliland. The sisal handicraft business provides continuous and important income to 65 women and intermittent income to 75 women. Of the 400 members of the Janaale Farmers' Cooperative, 170 are women, of whom 50 manage their own greenhouse business. In IDP camps over 200 women micro-entrepreneurs apply new business management skills and their market access has increased.

Nicaragua specific achievements:

- Manos Nicas has become a professional "digital-conscious" supporting actor at the national level. The Association of Producers and Exporters of Nicaragua (APEN) makes use of their expertise in product design

and marketing, in logistics, and in trade practices. The cooperation with APEN improves the project's long-term sustainability.

- Despite of the damaging impacts of COVID-19 and political crisis, Manos Nicas artisan network was able to build an upwards sales trend in the domestic market and made promising openings in the exporting. In USA, Manos Nicas is in talks with design company West Elm about selling Manos Nicas collection via their stores. First Manos Nicas products were sold in Costa Rica through coworking stores in 2021.
- Most beneficiary women and men farmers (about 380) have permanently raised their incomes to the adequate living wage level determined by the Global Living Wage Coalition. Women have become important entrepreneurs in the area, they own successful and professionally managed pig and poultry farms, bakeries, cheese plants and wholesales.



In 2021, ISF supported five projects that focus on strengthening entrepreneurship and enhancing small-scale farmers' climate resilience.

Outcome 1: Women's and men's livelihoods are improved

ISF improves the economic viability of enterprises by establishing missing services (e.g. seed bank and finance) in value chains and linking expertise to development processes (e.g. professional designers, food safety experts). In 2021, ISF directly supported the business development of 1102 entrepreneurs (943 women), including 300 female petty traders in IDP camps (internally displaced persons) in Somaliland who learned to read and write and were trained in basic business skills. ISF improved the commercialization of 1480 farms, two farmer cooperatives, five food micro enterprises, 74 artisan micro enterprises and 3 artisan cooperatives.

In Kenya, the skills of farmers to grow, store and pack vegetables and mushrooms have developed, which is reflected in the quality of products sold and in sales price. Cooperation with companies has shown that product quality plays a key role in developing a profitable business.

ISF and its local partners continued cooperation with a Finnish-owned Kenyan food company Böna Factory, to improve women's capacity in food safety and pre-processing and to increase women's sales in national markets. The cooperation focuses on mushroom and indigenous vegetable value chains, including pre-processing before selling to Böna Factory. ISF partners signed a contract farming agreement with a local food company Mace Foods. With contract farming, women who produce small quantities but are organised, can sell to big wholesalers, stores and food companies. New crops and value addition possibilities have attracted younger women (below 35 years) to agri-business.

Nyamira North Women's SACCO (NNWS) analysed vegetable and mushroom farming feasibility and viability to identify gaps in inputs, skills and business management and to scale up mushroom and indigenous vegetable production, processing and selling in the future. Identified key problems were poor quality and unstable prices of inputs that increase cost of production. For this reason, women were unable to supply Mace Foods with the agreed amount of vegetables in 2021.

ISF trained partners' staff and Board members in financial management and resource mobilization, strategic planning and organisational procedures, Human Resources management, project cycle management, disability inclusion, social media and communications and conflict management. As a result, partners updated their strategies and developed organisational manuals. Increasing connectivity was essential part of the organisational capacity building, for example the partners did a study visit to Uganda to learn more about the use of banana by-products for packaging.

ISF, NNWS and BWCBO implemented a Fingo Power Bank experiment to increase partners' and beneficiaries' access to digital services, such as advisory, weather information, price and market information and m-banking. The project was implemented using DUI mode (doing-using-interacting) that builds on everyday needs and draws on learning by doing, using

technology and interacting between various actors. Younger women farmers pioneered in using, among others, m-banking and agricultural advisory services. The NNWS and BWCBO marketed farm products through Facebook, WhatsApp and Twitter which generated immediately new markets. Women's access to market information improved significantly (65% of women get information often).

Based on the Fingo Powerbank experiment, ISF will continue improving women's digital skills and access to digital technology and services. This is not only important for improving their livelihood opportunities, but by using digital tools women can improve their resilience in broader terms, for example enlist to NHIF (National Hospital Insurance Fund) or insurance schemes. Challenges in the use of digital services were mainly lack of adequate devices, low literacy and English language skills, and high cost of airtime.

In Somaliland, the agriculture projects were in their exit phase and activities focused on strengthening institutions in the projects. In Togdheer region, Jaladle farmer cooperative's members were trained in basic business skills and its cooperation with Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) was strengthened. The government committed to support the farmer cooperative and its sub-cooperatives (vegetable, seed bank, cereal/sesame, fodder) in the future.

In Togdheer, better access to seeds and irrigation improved on-farm diversification (2/3 of the beneficiaries cultivate 10 or more crops on yearly basis) and ensured the production of crops even in the dry seasons. In 2021, the farmer community in Beer produced 15 000 kg vegetables and melons and 4 000 kg sesame. Both sesame and vegetable greenhouse farming were introduced by the project to farmers. The income from new products was 25 000 USD. The production and income levels were less than the target values due to the challenging year of 2021 (desert locust invasion, 3 consecutive poor rainy seasons and COVID-19).

In Sahil, better access to water and crop diversification have increased income of families 136% since 2018, annual average income being \$ 1944 in 2021. As a new form of livelihood, sisal handicraft business brings additional income to 140 families. The average annual income per woman (\$ 225) from sisal products more than doubled from 2020, although the result is lower than before the pandemic. Women managed to sell their products in big shops, for example at Hargeisa airport. Women live far from sisal handicraft markets, which complicates marketing and transportation. ISF established collection and transportation points in project villages to address the transportation challenge, but women need to solve the difficulties in marketing themselves in the future.

In IDP camps, ISF improved women's literacy and numeracy skills, trained women in basic business skills and increased their access to savings and loan services. In TAAKULO project nearly 100 women drew up business plans, collected customer feedback on their products and services, marketed their products and tested new approaches in their businesses. As a result, all of them reported an increase in their monthly gross income

based on their business transaction records. In SOYDAVO project, the COVID-19 lockdown affected negatively business transactions and women's incomes dropped dramatically in 2021 compared to baseline level after steady increase trend in 2018-20. Over half of the trained 200 women applied new skills in their business activities and, as a result, 58% of women reported an improvement in their market access and 15 women applied for a loan from an official financial institution.

In Nicaragua, the sales of Manos Nicas products increased considerably compared to 2020, although sales figures remained significantly lower than before the COVID-19 crisis in 2019. A key factor in success was collaboration with professional designers and other expert allies, such as co-working stores and digital marketing experts. The crisis cut the number of employees in artisan enterprises and some beneficiaries were forced to sell their materials and equipment to survive.

ISF strengthened systematically the know-how and capabilities of artisans and Manos Nicas network in product design, in the development of quality systems and in quality control, in logistics, and in the trade practices, including e-Commerce. Manos Nicas sales staff attended a distance-learning business analytics course organized by Harvard Business School and one Manos Nicas staff member was selected to a group of 40 women entrepreneurs who will participate in six-months business planning and management training at INCAE Business School in Costa Rica. Potters were trained by Guatemalan experts in producing glazed clay products.

The domestic sales of handicrafts increased with the help of coworking stores, where Manos Nicas products stand out alongside branded products that are already familiar to customers and appeal to them. Customer feedback on products is fed directly into product development.

Manos Nicas continued to provide expert and advisory assistance to the Association of Producers and Exporters of Nicaragua APEN. During the year, the product range offered to the Costa Rican market was compiled, a logistics chain was set up from Nicaragua to Costa Rica, and the first Manos Nicas products were sold through coworking stores. In collaboration with INCAE Business School, Manos Nicas drew up a long-term business and growth plan for the Costa Rican market, and several promising trading partners were visited. Manos Nicas initiated a business registration process in Costa Rica to be able to sell online in the future. The project has built Manos Nicas' skills in supporting SME development particularly in artisan sector, which offers an interesting opportunity for Manos Nicas to sell its services, e.g. Artesanía Exitosa training programme and eCommerce advise, in Costa Rica.

Manos Nicas has explored CMH (creative manufacturing and handmade) sector in USA where cheap Asian products dominate the markets. One potential door to the markets is to design tailored products with a wholesaler, which Manos Nicas piloted with West Elm retail chain. The logistics to sell products through Etsy (a global online marketplace) in USA were set up.

Learning processes and lessons learnt 2018-21

Value chain approach promotes sustainable change

Based on experiences in Nicaragua, ISF crystallized and documented its value chain approach. In some ISF livelihood projects a stumbling block has been to focus on improving the lives of beneficiaries without taking into consideration the gaps in value chains they belong to. ISF's role in the successful projects has not been a 'helper' but rather an enabling partner that links beneficiaries and local institutions to relevant national and international actors. The valuable purpose of the projects has been to bring in or build in new expertise and contacts to programme area.

During the project planning in Kenya, ISF tested a set of gender and value chain analyses tools that were documented in the updated Project Manual. The value chain approach also guided the project implementation and the experiences have been positive. In fragile areas the actors themselves need to be developed or even established. In Somaliland, lack of seeds was identified as a key gap in food chains and development of local seed testing and multiplication of knowledge and systems will have long-term impact. In this context external expertise has a critical role in building the local capacity and systems.

Focus on developing entrepreneurship empowers women

In fragile areas, women often manage small and administratively poor businesses and run their business in isolation, with little or no education at all. Successful entrepreneurship project does not just give basic skills but enhances the ability to solve problems, which in turn nurtures self-confidence, preparedness to change and increases connectivity. This requires an intensive involvement of ISF in the projects, and at best, contributes to gender transformative change.

In Nicaragua, ISF developed and implemented an entrepreneurship training programme that included a gender norms component and activities to strengthen women's participation in innovation processes. The projects have successfully increased women's economic and social status. The Nicaraguan experience was shared with ISF Somaliland team, which led to a process to develop the Health and Business Manual.

In Kenya, ISF formed a partnership with two women's organisations and has systematically improved women farmers' leadership and management skills and connectivity to experts, including companies. Collaboration with ISF VAWG partners and Muungano Gender Forum complement the business development activities. The approach to target only women has been successful, but on the other hand, it reduces the potential for increasing women farmers' climate resilience (see lessons learnt in the next chapter). The learning and development process to combine value chain approach, entrepreneurship mentality and climate resilience continues.

Outcome 2: Women's and men's agricultural production systems are more resilient to climate change

ISF supports livelihoods in remote rural areas where climate change and human activities have changed farming conditions significantly. In these areas, small-holder farmers' survival and livelihoods depend on climate adaptation.

In 2021, ISF directly supported the climate resilience of 1480 family farms that adopted new sustainable farming practices and technologies. To diversify farmers' income sources, ISF supported the development of new livelihoods, such as sisal, sesame, mushroom and vertical and greenhouse vegetable farming. ISF key activity areas were training and advice in farming and post-harvest handling, investments in technology and equipment, improving access to quality inputs, and promoting product development and marketing. ISF supports farmers to plan how to best optimize the use of natural resources in sustainable manner, consequently, farmers have for example changed sowing and harvest cycles, collected rainwater, diversified production and protected soil from flood erosion.

In Kenya, ISF supported the establishment of experiment plots and facilitated expert cooperation between women farmers and technical institutions, local extension service and FAO. NNWS and BWCBO have developed peer advisory system that is able to respond quickly to farmers' needs. Monthly feedback and reporting sessions among stakeholders were instrumental in developing approach to support farmers throughout the agriculture production cycle.

To address problem of land scarcity, soil infertility and erratic weather, over 300 women were trained on vertical gardening, shade nets technology, zero tillage, mulching and using terraces. In addition, 40 women were trained to practice mushroom cultivation in huts. Annual vegetable production volumes have increased significantly, currently standing at 126,000 kg. The prolonged dry period destroyed chili plantations in the test fields, therefore, the projects must acquire new seeds and start testing from scratch in 2022. Partners initiated negotiations with Frikogen Ltd on chili contract farming agreement.

Farmers have adopted recommended best agronomic practices; however, adoption of new methods and technologies is slow due to low education levels and high price of materials and equipment. Composting proceeded well, alone in BWCBO 37 women have successfully produced composted organic manure and 59 women fertilize their vegetables with it. The commercialization of compost fertilizer is still ongoing. As a result of the Fingo Powerbank cooperation, about half of the BWCBO and 65% of NNWS women farmers use weather information service to help scheduling their farming activities.

In Somaliland, Communities' Natural Resources Management (NRM) Committees in Togdheer were trained in implementing

the NRM plans, including water and agriculture management, and soil, water and biodiversity conservation. As planned, the communities have protected 55 ha of land from flood erosion, 320 ha of fields are irrigated and used by 400 farms (100 female-headed) and on-farm diversity is increased. Additionally, the committees held regular meetings to assess and forecast the likelihood of disasters and ways to manage forthcoming extreme weather.

The ADO project handed over a wheel loader and disc harrow to the Janaale Farmer cooperative so that they can expand agriculture, control sedimentation of dams and prevent other flood damages in the future.

In 2021, 754 farmers used drought resistant seeds from the Beer community seed bank in Togdheer. The University of Burao students visited project villages and seed bank, collected information from the cooperatives and completed internships within the project. The University of Burao test sorghum and maize seed varieties in the project test fields. In addition, Beer Agriculture college and Sheikh ISTVS IGAD University make use of the seed bank, seed trials and multiplication sites and greenhouses in testing and teaching.

In Sahil, ISF produced DRR (Disaster Risk Reduction) plans in four villages. Two water collection dams were constructed in God' awayn (in 2019) and Iskudar (in 2020) to improve communities' access to water. As a result, communities' rainwater storage capacity is over 30 000 m3 and 51 farms cultivate irrigated fields. Moreover, most of the farmers apply sustainable farming practices that have increased soil fertility, food availability and income.

In the beginning of the project ISF brought from Kenya 4,000 long-fibre sisal variety seedlings that are now matured and produce fibre to craftswomen. In terms of climate resilience, the sisal trees are used as a barrier to protect fields from flood erosion. One unintended but positive impact was that the conflicts between farmers reduced after they started to fence their fields with sisal.

The final evaluations recommended that ISF should spare percentage of the project annual budgets for any upcoming emergencies, such as pests, extreme drought or floods, to increase communities' capacity to overcome disasters.

In Nicaragua, ISF and COMCAVEM cooperative implemented a climate resilience project that ended in 2020. The project description and detailed results were reported in 2020, but some of the results are included in this report in the programme results section.



To diversify farmers' income sources, ISF supported the development of new livelihoods, such as greenhouse vegetable farming.

Learning processes and lessons learnt 2018-21:

Strengthened cooperatives sustain results

ISF has increased the productivity and profitability of agriculture in dry, climate-affected areas by strengthening farmers' capacities and farmer cooperative system. A strengthened farmer cooperative sustains the project investments and enables small-holder farmers to continue development activities in the long run. Experts, institutions and companies can collaborate easier with cooperative than with individual farmers. Democratic cooperative system increases the sense of ownership, which was manifested in co-sharing of project investment costs. In addition, it proved easier to involve women in the projects as members of a cooperative than as residents of a community.

ISF continues developing its approach to support cooperative leadership and management and through value chain approach cooperatives are linked to new knowledge, technologies, skills and contacts.

Promotion of climate resilience calls for landscape level activities

The farms that practice sustainable farming are not immune to damage caused by uncontrolled and unsustainable use of natural resources of others. The environmental degradation cannot be overcome with village level projects. In ISF approach,

the challenge has been to combine development of landscape-based climate adaptation and strengthening of women farmers, cooperatives and specific value chains.

In the future, ISF should promote nature positive land use planning (crops and livestock, water, forest, energy) in wider areas and find ways to promote multi-stakeholder cooperation between farmers, decision makers and experts (including companies). Active involvement of farmers is important to benefit from their local knowledge, coping mechanisms and problem identification. Also, ISF should map and apply new digital and visual planning and monitoring tools that not only strengthen the partner but, in their best, can promote farmers' livelihood and support decision makers in climate-resilient land use planning.

One important way to enhance learning in climate adaptation is to involve partners in the climate discussions in Finland and internationally. During the programme period, ADO attended a meeting of the Committee on World Food Security in Rome and was a speaker in the Finnish side event, and Somaliland partners participated in the preparatory discussions of the UN Food Systems Summit in Finland.

Objective 2 – Empowering communities to prevent violence against women and girls

In 2021, ISF had six partner-led projects and one own project that focus on preventing violence against women and girls (VAWG) in Kenya and Somaliland. These projects specifically address female genital mutilation (FGM), which is highly prevalent in ISF programme areas. The projects aim at increasing awareness, strengthening attitudes, and raising voices against VAWG among rights holders and duty bearers. Additionally, one project focusing on FGM prevention in Nyamira, Kenya, was terminated already in 2018.

Major achievements during the programme period 2018–21 are:

- Awareness of the negative health effects of FGM has increased in all programme areas. In the Kenyan target communities, majority of adults and minors now identify several physical and psychological consequences of FGM. In Somaliland, 70–99% people (depending on the project) now understand the risks of the most severe pharaonic cutting, and a little smaller proportion also see risks related to cutting without stitches (so called sunnah cutting)
- It is widely acknowledged that FGM awareness raising that solely focuses on the health consequences is not effective. In Kenya, ISF succeeded in enhancing target communities' awareness of the stipulations of the Anti-FGM Law. In Somaliland, where FGM has yet not been criminalized by special legislation, ISF managed to challenge religious misunderstandings around FGM: percentage of people who do not regard FGM as mandated by Islam rose to 100% regarding pharaonic cutting, and to 86% regarding milder forms of cutting. In both countries, the percentage of people who do not attach FGM with a girl's morality increased: from 25% to 78% in Kenya, and from around 80% to 100% in Somaliland.
- Change was detected in not only knowledge and attitudes, but also behavioural aims. Among ISF target communities in Kenya, percentage of people aiming to leave their daughters uncut has grown from 27% to 76%. In Somaliland, the share has grown to 28% in communities where the baseline was 0%, and to 85% in communities where the baseline was 32%.
- Increasingly, sensitized duty bearers act upon their enhanced understanding on the prevalence, harmfulness, and preventability of FGM. While only 20% of targeted duty bearers in Kenya publicly advocated against FGM

before the programme, now majority of them address the topic when reaching out to their audiences. In Somaliland, close to all targeted CSOs, women's self-help-groups and local Anti-FGM Committee members now advocate against all types of FGM, while majority previously approved milder types of cutting. In the rural villages, where FGM is often not seen as a problem, 38% of the Community Management Committee members now have FGM prevention on their agenda.

Kenya specific achievements:

- Muungano Gender Forum—ISF's own initiative implemented in close cooperation with local partners and Kisii and Nyamira County administration since 2018—has created an enabling environment for discussing women and girls' special needs. According to an external evaluation conducted in 2020, Muungano Gender Forum has strengthened coordination and improved awareness on women's rights and needs among key stakeholders, such as county authorities, media, religious bodies, women's rights activists and general public.
- An Alternative Rite of Passage (ARP) concept was designed and piloted in 2020 in cooperation with ISF, its local partners, community members and local government officials. ARP replicates traditional initiation rituals for girls transitioning to womanhood (e.g., celebrations, singing and dancing), but without FGM. ISF incorporated the concept into the Holiday Mentoring Programme it has been running since 2016 and utilized the Muungano Gender Forum to ensure local ownership for the approach. 340 girls graduated from the ARP programme in 2020–21. They become Anti-FGM Champions, uncut role models for other girls and parents who want to reject FGM.
- Mainstreaming SGBV prevention into livelihood projects has opened access to new target groups and strengthened the legitimacy of efforts to address sensitive SGBV topics. The other way round, supporting women's livelihood addresses one of the root causes of VAWG: socio-economic subordination and dependence on marriage for social security and status. By helping women to generate sustainable income, ISF enables them to enforce their social status within their families and communities, challenges the rigidity of gender roles and strengthens women's self-determination.



In Somaliland, 70–99% people now understand the risks of the most severe pharaonic cutting.

Somaliland specific achievements:

- The programme has been successful in strengthening local community structures and their role in mitigating VAWG, thereby increasing local ownership over topics previously regarded as 'Western' (such as anti-FGM messages). For example, Community Management Committees (CMC) in rural villages and all-female local Anti-FGM committees have conducted regular awareness raising, supported by the project teams. By the end of 2021, Community management committees in 40 rural and internally displaced people's communities made collective declarations to abandon FGM.
- The community facilitator approach to eradicate FGM in rural villages proved successful: facilitators based in four target villages provided weekly training to CMCs whereafter CMCs passed the knowledge to their communities. CMCs were also sent to neighbouring villages to share experiences and discuss ways to abandon FGM. These exposure visits and 'peer support' strengthened the CMCs commitment to FGM eradication. This approach follows the successful 'Tostan approach' whereby information is shared in non-judgmental inclusive ways and local management committees take charge of the future of their communities.
- Men's role in raising awareness against VAWG has increased particularly in projects that have organized regular targeted discussions and roundtable meetings for men. For example, in the SOYDAVO project in 20 villages in Buroa and Odweyne districts, 63% of the targeted men have participated in community activities to address VAWG, and 58% have participated in activities to promote zero tolerance of FGM. Based on the interviews conducted by an external consultant, women appreciate the improved working relationship between men and women on FGM and SGBV awareness raising. Women also report that local men are increasingly willing to marry uncut women.
- There are signs of decreasing trust in customary arrangements traditionally used in SGBV cases especially in the rural communities in Somaliland. Such arrangements often protect the family and clan honour and the interests of the perpetrator instead of the survivor. Respectively, confidence in the formal justice system is increasing and out-of-court negotiations on, for instance, rape cases are decreasing. There are both male and female voices claiming for lengthy jail sentences to discourage potential perpetrators.

Outcome 1: Duty bearers’ and opinion leaders’ awareness raising against VAWG has strengthened

In Kenya, ISF reached directly nearly 500 duty bearers and opinion leaders in 2021, consisting of local authorities, teachers, church leaders, journalists, academics, private sector actors, male champions and other activists in Kisii and Nyamira counties.

In Nyamira county, by the end of 2021, all targeted duty bearers were able to name the social and legal aspects of FGM and 83% identified the health effects. Many of them spoke publicly against FGM. ISF partner Manga HEART created a local network of duty bearers to facilitate and follow up the reporting of FGM and domestic violence cases. In the 2022-25 project, Manga HEART will build on this by enhancing trust between local duty bearers and community members.

In Kisii county, ISF partner CECOME contributed towards the development of the 2022-2025 Kisii County specific Costed Action Plan for Ending FGM. In both counties, the improved visibility of Muungano Gender Forum and ISF implementing partners has attracted local duty bearers’ (chiefs, assistant chiefs, and village elders) attention for the prevalence and wide-reaching effects of VAWG. Impunity, however, remains a problem that ISF will address in the 2022-25 programme: duty bearers neglect, silence and/or downplay the VAWG cases, and survivors fear being stigmatized instead of gaining justice and support.

In 2021, ISF took initial steps to expand Muungano Gender Forum into grassroots communities. Local administrators (chiefs, Nyumba Kumi officials) and religious leaders were involved to ensure community buy-in. In 2022-25, Muungano will further expand its grassroots presence via weekly dialogues in 11 rural communities. Cooperation with Kisii and Nyamira County administration will continue, aiming to coordinate CSO efforts for gender equality in general, and the enactment and implementation of county specific Costed Action Plan to End FGM (initiated by Kenya Anti-FGM Board and UNICEF) in particular.

In Somaliland, ISF reached directly close to 1,700 duty bearers and opinion leaders in 2021, consisting of government authorities, religious leaders, civil society organizations (CSO), community management committees, journalists, and university students.

ISF and local partners continued efforts to harmonize local civil society’s actions and voice against FGM. ISF partner NAFIS—a network of local CSOs working against FGM—organized regional and national coordination meetings for over 300 CSO activists.

Due to the training and coordination efforts, the local CSOs increasingly see that all types of FGM have negative consequences and are not mandated by Islam. Thus, less and less CSOs promote milder types of cutting, and instead join forces to abandon all types of FGM. Accordingly, local CSOs (among them most ISF partners) actively participated in lobbying and drafting an Anti-FGM Policy based on zero tolerance against all types of genital cutting (see Lessons learnt below).

Training was organized for 40 traditional and 40 religious leaders in Kosar and Caqiibo IDPs in Burao district to help them advocate against FGM during public gatherings, and at mosques and Qur’an schools. Small-scale coordination of FGM and SGBV interventions among local CSOs, community leaders and government institutions in Burao District was also carried out. Community facilitators continued supporting Community Management Committees (CMC) in their respective rural target villages. Community facilitators also assisted CMCs in conducting community awareness campaigns, using participatory methods such as role plays. 40 public declarations to eliminate FGM have now been made in the targeted villages.

60 journalists have been trained on how to harness the role of media in spreading knowledge on FGM and other forms of SGBV. However, it turned out in the external UN Trust Fund project midterm evaluation (2021), local media houses often perceive FGM programmes sponsored by (international) NGOs and hence, tend to charge for publishing any related content. To respond to this, ISF trained a small group of independent (freelance) journalists and social media influencers in Somaliland in 2021. The experience was promising and will be further examined and complemented with annual award for the best (social) media influencer.

Moreover, 200 trained university students kept advocating for social justice and women’s right to bodily integrity. Students were equipped with strategies to advocate towards community, government, and peers. They wrote 140 articles and conducted awareness campaigns among peers. The social media interactions brought VAWG extensively to public agenda and engaged other activists in the campaigning. In addition to the university students, 100 youth in the rural and IDP communities in Burao District were trained on the negative effects of FGM and SGBV. They, too, reach out to local women, community and religious leaders, and their peers.



In Kenya, ISF reached directly nearly 500 duty bearers and opinion leaders in 2021.

Learning processes and lessons learnt 2018-21:

Religious leaders play decisive role in FGM prevention in Somaliland

In Somaliland, varying religious interpretations perpetuate FGM. Many people still regard FGM (particularly cutting without stitches) as a religious obligation or virtue, a belief reinforced by the Fatwa issued by the Ministry of Religious Affairs in 2018. Particularly in rural communities, people have few opportunities to study the primary Islamic texts or to consult different scholars. Hence, they rely on local religious leaders who remain reluctant to publicly advocate against FGM or stick to conservative interpretations, arguing that some form of cutting is mandated by religion.

Also, at the Government level, different religious interpretations impact opinions on which types of FGM should be eradicated. This dispute has long delayed anti-FGM legislation. Efforts towards an Anti-FGM Policy and respective legislation intensified in the latter half of 2021, and hopefully lead to condemnation of all types of cutting.

As the moral and social norms remain strong (often stronger than legislative norms) and as people trust religious leaders in moral issues, there is a need to systematically target and amplify the voices of progressive religious leaders who affirm that no type of FGM is justified by Islam. Having a critical mass of such leaders would give moral support to other actors engaged in FGM prevention.

Outcome 2: Community members’ awareness of and attitudes against VAWG have strengthened

In Kenya, ISF reached directly over 3,300 community members in 2021, including school children, their parents, members of women’s, men’s and youth groups. An extensive external final evaluation of two projects focusing on FGM prevention in Kisii (CECOME) and Nyamira (Manga HEART) counties was commenced in 2021. The findings show that people’s perception of FGM has changed to expected direction, indicated by percentage of community members who think that most Abagusii woman undergo FGM; think men prefer marrying a circumcised girl; believe their community associates FGM with morality and reduced promiscuity; think FGM is a rite of passage for girls, and are aware of the FGM ban.

There was ongoing sensitization within the established groups of men, women, and out-of-school youths on issues ranging from FGM, intimate partner violence, teenage pregnancy, sexual and reproductive health and rights, rape and defilement. While some men still feel that such discussions are for women only, increasing number of men and boys are participating, and volunteering as anti-SGBV champions who disseminate information to their peers and family members. Simultaneously, women and girls are showing increasing interest in learning about SGBV, claiming their rights, and setting up safe spaces and circles for sharing their experiences and supporting SGBV survivors.

Teachers have been important stakeholders throughout the 2018–21 programme. School children were engaged in Health Ambassadors Clubs and Anti-FGM Warriors Clubs that have been established in the affiliate schools. Few schools also incorporated FGM guidance and counselling in the school curriculum to facilitate child-friendly discussions among the students. In 2021, 170 girls graduated from the Alternative Rites of Passage (ARP) programme designed to replace FGM. Parents and stakeholders from Kisii and Nyamira Counties participated in the graduation ceremony, whereafter graduate girls become anti-FGM champions—uncut role models who support other girls in the future ARP programmes.

Since 2020, ISF has supported its livelihood partners in Kisii and Nyamira to mainstream gender norm and VAWG component into the projects. In 2021, the 17 anti-SGBV volunteers selected from among the livelihood project female beneficiaries got further training. The volunteers, in turn, continued sensitizing their peers on the causes and consequences of SGBV, toll-free lines and other local reporting mechanisms and support services for survivors. The anti-SGBV sessions reached nearly 700 people, mainly women farmers, but also school children, local chiefs, village elders and religious leaders. Men’s participation in these sessions is gradually increasing and some women report that they now get support from their spouses, mainly in form of access to family resources like land for vegetable production. Despite these achievements, ISF and partners identified in late-2021 that to be effective, the mainstreamed SGBV mitigation activities cannot solely rely on volunteers, which was considered in the 2022–25 project plans.

In Somaliland, ISF reached directly nearly 7,800 community members in 2021. ISF continued empowering internally displaced women through self-help groups (SHG). In 2021, over 4,000 SHG women were targeted by, for instance, 30 female Human Rights Ambassadors and 100 female Anti-FGM Committee members,

both consisting of local women trained for the volunteer role. All 90 self-help groups (with 20 women in each) targeted by the Human Rights Ambassadors now have an advocacy plan for women’s right to bodily integrity.

Besides awareness raising, the Anti-FGM Committee members also assisted SGBV survivors for medical and legal redress. Considering ISF focus on primary prevention (not responsive services), partners have been encouraged to seek synergies with other non-ISF funded projects. For example, the Anti-FGM Committees (trained by ISF partner SOYDAVO) refer girls at risk of FGM to qualified local nurses trained by another SOYDAVO project. Similarly, legal support for rape survivors has been channelled via another project. There remain, however, major gaps in services for FGM and SGBV survivors in rural communities (such as Odwayne), where the Anti-FGM Committee volunteers thus additionally provided psychosocial counselling and mobilized resources for the SGBV survivors.

Within rural and internally displaced people’s communities in Somaliland, ISF has for years carried out FGM and SGBV prevention activities integrated into economic empowerment projects. This approach helps ISF and its local partners to establish legitimacy and build a relationship of trust in communities where harmful practices against women and girls are deeply rooted and often silenced. In 2018–2021, FGM and SGBV awareness raising was mainstreamed into sisal value chain development activities in rural villages, and literacy, numeracy, and entrepreneurial skills trainings in IDP settings. To document, conceptualize and scale up mainstreaming practices in Somaliland, ISF compiled a Women’s Health and Micro Entrepreneurship Trainer’s Manual. Also, ISF compiled a Community-driven Strategies to Prevent FGM in the African Context review to support programme development, particularly FGM prevention in East Africa. Both documents were shared with relevant partners and stakeholders and will be further developed in the 2022–25 programme.

The way ISF and its partners have managed to break the taboo around FGM in rural communities is captured in the below quote by a consultant who conducted evaluations for ISF in Somaliland:

I was part of a team conducting a FGM baseline study in 2013 in Buroa and Odweyne districts. Speaking about FGM in public was a serious issue. We could not speak to some of our target respondents, specifically traditional leaders, religious leaders, some men, and some older adults. It was a taboo to discuss FGM in public, and we were asked to leave immediately in some Odweyne villages. I even remember one of the traditional leaders telling us “You are disgusting. If you do not leave now, we will kill you.” During this ISF evaluation [conducted in late 2021–early 2022], we convened community members, both men and women, in public and discussed FGM openly. This is a massive achievement, and although different interventions are likely to have contributed to this change, the communities we spoke to have explicitly associated the majority of changes to the [SOYDAVO] project. (Khadr Abdi, Kabaal Consulting)



In Kenya, ISF reached directly over 3,300 community members in 2021.

Learning processes and lessons learnt 2018–21:

Adopting digital tools and crises response activities

During the COVID-19 lockdown, ISF successfully piloted digital channels (bulk SMS, interactive voice response, WhatsApp, Facebook live) as well as vehicle-based awareness raising to disseminate information on both COVID-19 and VAWG that alarmingly increased during the pandemic. ISF and its partners also used digital platforms such as Zoom and Teams to arrange regular meetings among themselves and with key stakeholders. ISF continues to utilize, scale up and develop further these solutions. Also, traditional media was increasingly used to replace face-to-face meetings. For example, ISF partners in Kenya broadcasted radio shows that reached 5 million people, an average of 450,000 people per show. The shows were interactive, allowing call-in questions and comments from the audience.

Action was taken to respond to the acute needs raised by the pandemic. For example, ISF partner SOYDAVO responded to the lack of personal protective equipment and sanitary kits in internally displaced people’s (IDP) communities in Somaliland by mobilizing female beneficiaries to produce washable face masks. Over 5,000 masks were distributed to IDP households, together with gloves

and liquid hand sanitizers. With additional earmarked COVID-19 response funds from UN Trust Fund, 18,120 households received protective gear and soap, and over 1,000 households received one-month food supplies. This action saved lives but also helped the project teams to sustain connection with the target communities, and thereby keep the programme operational.

Importance of language and terminology

In Somaliland, using the term sunni or sunnah to refer to cutting without stiches should be avoided, as its means ‘recommended’ in Arabic. Likewise, English words and acronyms should be avoided, as for instance ‘FGM’ is mostly understood to refer to the pharaonic cutting only. Local terms fircooni (pharaonic) and fiid-jar (cutting the tip) should be applied instead.

English information, education, and communication messages do not reach people in rural communities. Messages and materials should be produced in local language, and preferably in spoken rather than in written format. When utilizing the digital platforms during the COVID-19 pandemic (see above), ISF successfully piloted subtitles and sign language in Facebook live sending to also reach hearing-impaired people. Also, awareness messages should deploy positive words like ‘promoting’, ‘fostering’, ‘increasing’ rather than ‘eradicating’, ‘fighting’, ‘abolishing’ etc.

Outcome 3: Women’s status in family and local community has strengthened

All activities and achievements reported above directly or indirectly strengthen women’s status in family and local community. Women’s strengthened status is indicated in, for instance, their views of their opportunities to generate own income, affect decisions inside family and in the community. The other side of the coin is men’s support for women’s income generation and participation in family and community decision-making. In the highly patriarchal communities where ISF operates, rigid gender norms often imply that women are expected to focus on domestic chores and leave productive work and decision-making for men.

In Kenya, systematic work to challenge rigid gender norms and ensure men’s support for women’s economic role was launched in 2020. As attitude and behavioural change is not expected to happen in 1 or 2 years, extensive follow-up data collection has not yet been carried out.

In Somaliland, the final evaluations conducted on three projects (ADO, Candlelight, SOYDAVO) in 2021 show that women have important productive roles in the target communities. The sisal handicraft business (Candlelight project) provides continuous and important income to 65 women and intermittent income to 75 women more. Sisal business has changed women’s role in the communities. One woman from Suuqsade village said:

Before Candlelight project came to our village, women stayed at homes and they did not participate in economic activities, however, with the help of the new skills women contribute to the family’s income.

Another woman from Goda’weyn village stated:

We can now work and use our skills wherever we are. Even when we are looking after our herds, we sit under the trees and make bags and baskets.

Of the 400 members of the Janaale Farmers’ Cooperative (ADO project), 170 are women and 50 women manage their own greenhouse business. In the 20 villages and IDP communities that SOYDAVO project has targeted, over 200 women micro-entrepreneurs apply new business management skills, and their market access has increased. Men have been engaged in discussions and roundtable meetings on FGM, SGBV and many of them now publicly champion against these vices.

Also, men’s acceptance of women’s economic role has improved. Two in three now disagree with the idea that women should stay at home, taking care of the children, and assuming household chores. While focus group discussions conducted with men in 2020 showed that men are coming to terms with women working as long as women continue bearing full responsibility for household chores and childcare, in 2021, some men reported to take part in domestic duties while their wives are engaged in productive activities: up to 64% reported to take care of the children, 16% to do household chores, and 12% to care of the older family members. 4% reported that they also help their wives in business activities, and 4% had invested in their wives’ businesses. Women, in turn, reported that their spouses increasingly engage in joint decision-making at the household level, and that they themselves feel more able to voice issues with their husbands.

Moreover, 56% of the targeted women report participating in community level meetings and decision-making bodies such as hygiene and sanitation committees (47%), conflict resolution meetings (20%), community development meetings (13%), community education meetings (11%), and water management meetings (9%). Most men support women’s involvement in community-level decision-making, opining that woman are more in touch with local and community issues than men.

In Nicaragua, most female beneficiaries and male farmers (about 380) have permanently raised their incomes to the adequate living wage level determined by the Global Living Wage Coalition. Women have become important entrepreneurs in the area, they own profitable and professionally managed pig and poultry farms, bakeries, cheese plants and retail shops. Women artisans participate actively in learning and innovation processes, they have connections to experts, use modern technology and have become more professional entrepreneurs. The project managed to attract 15 young women to join Manos Nicas trainings in collaboration with local Impact Hub.

Prior to the political crisis in the country, ISF supported trainings on gender roles and norms, which were incorporated in farm system development and entrepreneurial trainings. ISF and APEN (Association of Producers and Exporters of Nicaragua) also arranged three thematic seminars covering leadership, self-efficacy, and women’s role in artisan value chains in Nicaragua. Beneficiaries in the artisan project—both women and men—suffer heavily from the political instability and COVID-19 crises. They don’t feel their opportunities to earn income have improved and are constantly searching for alternative incomes to support their families.

Learning processes and lessons learnt 2018–21:

Female activist role models are needed

Women’s agency in the fight against harmful practices is crucial to not only prevent violence against women and girls, but to challenge the rigid gender roles and norms. In Somaliland, 30 female Human Rights Ambassadors were trained from among the Cluster Level Associations. They then conducted weekly sessions with their respective self-help groups. Similarly, women-only Anti-FGM Committees have been effective in reaching out and empowering their peers. While they are well positioned to discuss sensitive issues like FGM and partner violence, they also serve as role models for other women and girls who are willing to claim their rights and promote gender equality.



In Nicaragua, most female beneficiaries have permanently raised their incomes to the adequate living wage level.

Objective 3 – People and communities are empowered as instigators of global change

ISF supports and strengthens individuals and communities as agents of global change. This is done primarily by supporting people’s participation and empowerment so that they can claim their own rights and contribute to the development of their own lives and communities. Participation and active citizenship are also promoted through communication, advocacy and global education in Finland. In addition, civil societies in the programme countries are supported through ISF’s partner-driven approach that emphasizes strengthening of local partners and cooperatives. The results of this objective are described in the annual MFA Report.

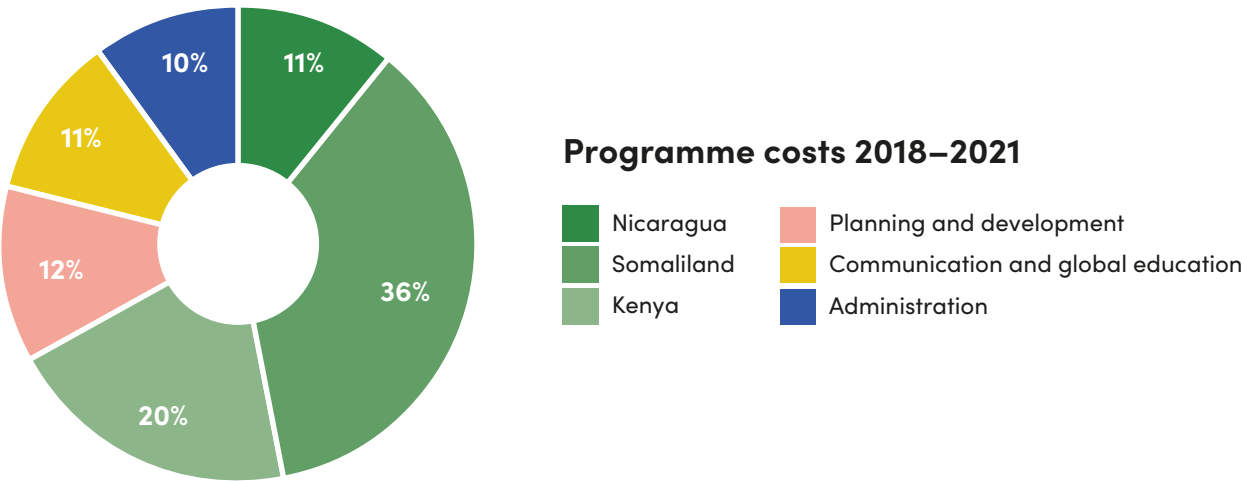


ISF strengthens individuals and communities as agents of global change by supporting people’s participation and empowerment.

5. Financial performance

The programme budget for 2018–2021 was 11.85 million euros. The total expenditure of the 4 years programme amounted to 10.64 million euros. The expenditure was divided as shown in the table and pie chart below. Somaliland continued to be the largest operation followed by Kenya. In total, programme countries accounted for 67% of total expenditure.

ISF Development Programme	Budget 2018–21, €	Expenditure 2018–21, €
Kenya	2,396,632	2,179,174
Nicaragua	1,247,595	1,193,340
Somaliland	4,407,814	3,822,288
Sub-total programme countries	8,052,041	7,194,803
Planning and development	1,362,150	1,267,925
Communications and global education	1,257,030	1,116,602
Administration	1,180,821	1,064,370
TOTAL	11,852,042	10,643,700



The programme was funded by the Ministry for Foreign Affairs (MFA) in Finland, the UN Trust Fund and other donors as follows:

Programme funding in 2018–2021	
Donor	Funds 2018–21, €
MFA Finland	7,560,000
UN Trust Fund	832,276
Fundraising, private donors	1,276,140
Fundraising, Red Nose Day (net)	772,638
Suomen kulttuurirahasto	30,000
Tradeka	69,500
Fingo	86,146
Kansan sivistysrahasto	7,000
Kuluttajaosuustoiminnan säätiö	10,000

ANNEX 1: ISF Projects in 2018–2021

Country	Area	Project name	ISF partner	Project period	Beneficiaries		Expenditure (EUR)
					Direct	Indirect	
Kenya	Kisii	SGBV prevention and mitigation	CECOME	2018 – 2021	2 665	13 325	413 882,06
Kenya	Nyamira	Raising the voices of the community against FGM	Manga Heart	2018 – 2021	8 283	49 698	341 890,61
Kenya	Nyamira	Awareness creation on the effects of FGM in Bonyakoni and Nyamauro	THUMP	2018	715	4 775	67 923,60
Kenya	Nyamira	Establishment of farmers centre of excellence for women	NNWS	2020 – 2021	656	3 280	126 641,15
Kenya	Nyamira	Improving women farmers' livelihood resilience	Bosinya CBO	2020 – 2021	400	2 000	280 473,84
Kenya	Kisii & Nyamira	Muungano Gender Forum	none (ISF-led)	2018 – 2021	1 637	27 000	190 292,79
Nicaragua	North Nicaragua	Enhancing farmers' climate resilience in Madriz and Estelí Districts	COMCAVEM	2018 – 2020	432	2 600	240 428,47
Nicaragua	North Nicaragua	Personal and commercial empowerment of women and men handicraft entrepreneurs	COMCAVEM	2018 – 2021	300	1 200	641 846,00
Somaliland	Togdheer region	Enhancing agro-pastoral communities' livelihood resilience	ADO	2018 – 2021	859	8 600	603 995,00
Somaliland	Sheikh District	Supporting sisal value chain development and women's entrepreneurship	Candlelight	2018 – 2021	280	1 680	715 158,00
Somaliland	Sahil and Awdal region	Community-driven FGM abandonment and women empowerment*	Candlelight	2018 – 2021	2 672	20 180	592 921,04
Somaliland	All regions		NAFIS	2018 – 2021			595 059,70
Somaliland	Togdheer region	Preventing SGBV and supporting women's economic role	SOYDAVO	2018 – 2021	5 577	33 462	550 086,55
Somaliland	Togdheer region	Prevention of SGBV/FGM through improved economic status of vulnerable women	Taakulo Somali Community	2020 – 2021	360	15 500	180 637,33
Total					24 836	183 300	5 541 236

*2018–19 Candlelight implemented Mainstreaming FGM prevention into livelihood project, and NAFIS implemented Combating FGM through advocacy, policy dialogue and mass movement project. From 2020, these projects were merged into UN Trust Fund funded Community-driven FGM abandonment and women empowerment project (2020–22).

OBJECTIVE 1: Local economies are economically and ecologically sustainable

OUTCOME / OUTPUT	INDICATOR	BASELINE LEVEL	TARGET LEVEL 2021	FINAL LEVEL 2021 (without COMCAVEM farmer cooperative)
OUTCOME: Men and women’s livelihood is improved	Men’s and women’s average monthly net income is increased to a level that ensures a decent livelihood	Nicaragua: 30% of artisan women and 52% of men earn over 100\$/mo. 70% of women in agriculture and 82% of men earn over 200\$/mo. Somaliland: Average annual total income of men 817\$ and women 459\$.	Nicaragua: 75% of artisans earn over 100\$/mo. 100% of agriculture producers earn over 200\$/mo. Somaliland: Minimum 15% increase in income. No decent livelihood level data available.	Nicaragua: No reliable income data from artisans due to COVID19. The pandemic has reduced incomes of artisans. Somaliland: Average HH income \$1,944 (129% increase to 2020, 137% increase to baseline). Average yearly income from sisal products \$ 225 (114% increase to 2020).
	# of men and women whose net income has increased permanently due to the ISF programme	No baseline level	1,020 (550 women and 470 men)	Nicaragua: No reliable income data from artisans due to COVID19. COMCAVEM (2020): 113 female and 110 male farmers. Somaliland: 100 greenhouse farmers, 51 farms with irrigation system, 65 sisal business women.
	Increase in sales per value chain	681,895\$ (including COMCAVEM farmer cooperative)	30% increase	Total: \$144,684 (without COMCAVEM farmer cooperative) Nicaragua: handicraft sales \$ 56 040 (44% increase to 2020, 41% decrease to 2019) Somaliland: fruits and vegetables \$17 644 (265% increase to 2018), sesame \$ 8000 (55% decrease to 2018), sisal about \$ 31,000 (146% increase to 2018) Kenya: indigenous vegetables \$32,000
	# of direct private sector jobs supported	Full time jobs in processing and merchandize: 32 (F14) Full time jobs in agriculture: 80	No target level	30 reported full-time jobs (16 women and 14 men)
OUTPUT: Men’s and women’s ability to plan their production and products based on client needs is developed	# of women and men entrepreneurs supported in the programme		680 women and 520 men	2018–21: 1772 (1282 women and 490 men). 2021: 1102 (943 women and 159 men)
	# of new marketable products developed in the programme		35 products	308 marketable new handicraft products in 2018–21 9 other products in 2018–21: sisal, greenhouse vegetables, dried and powdered mushroom and spiderplant, chili, goat meat, goat milk, goat milk yoghurt and candy
OUTPUT: Collective enterprises’ operational capacity is improved	# of enterprises directly supported		900 small farms, 10 cooperatives and 20 artisanal micro-enterprises	2021: 1480 farms, 2 farmer cooperatives, 5 food micro enterprises, 74 artisan micro enterprises, 3 artisan cooperatives 2018–21: 2150 farms, 4 farmer cooperatives, 5 food micro enterprises, 124 artisan micro enterprises, 4 artisan cooperatives
	# of people that benefit from services developed in the programme		3,000 people that are not direct beneficiaries of the programme	3,200 (estimate, inc. COMCAVEM)
	# of trained male and female peer support persons (capacitated to sustain and increase quality of production)		60 (at least 50% women)	Total 2018–21: 64 (35 women, 29 men) Nicaragua: 25 men and 10 women to support agriculture, 4 men and 6 women to support artisans Kenya: 19 women farmers
OUTCOME: Men’s and women’s agricultural production systems are more resilient to climate change	Annual production volumes per product are increased in selected value chains	Nicaragua: goat milk 1,500 l/yr (2015), goat meat 0kg Somaliland: sesame 10,880kg and 0 litres of processed oil, 100 bunches of sisal fibre/woman/yr. Production supported by irrigation and greenhouses: tomato 6,750kg, green pepper 3,840kg.	Nicaragua: Goat milk 3,000l/yr (milk or cheese); no target for goat meat. Somaliland: sesame 500% increase, tomato, green pepper, other vegetables and fruits 400% increase, 150 bunches sisal fibre/women/year	Somaliland: no reliable data on sisal in 2021. Vegetables and fruits 15,000 kg (42% increase to baseline) and sesame 4,000 kg.(63% idecrease to baseline) Kenya: indigenous vegetables 126,000 kg (75% of women report increase)
	Productivity for selected products is increased	Nicaragua: maize 1,930kg/ha, beans 1,610kg/ha, sorghum 2,440kg/ha Somaliland: sesame 521kg/ha, tomato 4kg/m2, green pepper 9.6kg/m2	Somaliland: sesame 50% increase, tomato 700% increase, green pepper 200% increase.	Somaliland: sesame 676 kg/ha (30% increase to baseline)
	# of households that have water in critical months of the year is increased	82 households	630 households	Nicaragua (2020): 254 HHs/1235 people Somaliland: 451 HHs/2706 people
OUTPUT: Men’s and women’s capacity to plan their production systems considering exiting resources and climate hazards is improved	# of partnerships with relevant networks, research institutions, universities and researchers that improve partners’ capacity to improve climate resilience		All partners have relevant contacts established.	Kenya: 6 partnerships (MoA, FAO, 2 companies, organig fertilizer, VET) Nicaragua (2020): 2 partnerships (goat value chain/Uni in Honduras and food production/WFP). Somaliland: 4 partnerships (Oxfam/seed bank, Uni in Ethiopia/seed testing, MoA, Building Resilient Communities in Somaliland consortium)
	# of farm or village level natural resources management development plans or environmental plans		Nicaragua: 174 farm economic and environmental plans. Somaliland: 4 village DRR plans and 300 household DRR plans.	Nicaragua (by 2020): 206 farm level plans in implementation. Somaliland: 7 DRR/NRM plans. No farm-level plans.
OUTPUT: Men’s and women’s capacity to apply climate resilient practices and technology is strengthened	# of women and men smallholder farmers reached through actions strengthening food security, productivity and climate resilience		6000	9,900 (estimate)
	# of farms that use practices and technology that increase climate resilience		790 farms	2018–21: 1,617 farms
OUTPUT: Small producers’ access to water is improved	# of people provided with safe and sustainable water supply (farmin purposes)		3,200 people	3,900 people (inc. COMCAVEM)
	Land cover under sustainable forest management or other environmental and soil protection		500ha	2018–21 837 ha

1 According to DCED Guidelines the indicator includes: 1) new jobs created as a result of the intervention and 2) existing jobs supported by the intervention. The indicator includes full-time jobs, seasonal jobs and informal jobs (direct and indirect jobs).

2 Entrepreneurs supported for example by training and counselling, who have received material support or participated in project activities that increase their knowledge on markets.

3 The indicator includes: 1) new enterprises and other “business entities” established as a result of the intervention and; 2) existing enterprises and other “business entities” supported by the intervention and whose operation was able to continue as a result of the intervention. “Enterprises” include cooperatives and business entities in the informal economy. If individual farmers in agriculture or informal economy are de facto entrepreneurs, their farm can be counted as “enterprises”.

4 Services that promote value chain performance, enhance climate adaptation and profitability of enterprises (e.g. joint funds for input purchasing, loan services, services that increase access to production inputs, counselling services). Can be provided by collective enterprise for its members or an external actor.

5 Data includes farmers and producers reached directly through projects promoting food security and rural development. Farmers and producers whose agricultural, livestock and/or fishery production has been concretely improved are considered as beneficiaries. The indicator is based on an assumption that actions focusing on farmers and producers improve the food security of their family members as well (total number = number of farmers/producers multiplied by average family size).

6 Data includes areas that have been brought under protection as well as areas for which environmentally sustainable management systems have been developed. It includes areas for which sustainable forest management or other improved land management systems have been devised, areas of improved water management.

OBJECTIVE II: Women and men are empowered to prevent violence against women and girls (VAWG)

OUTCOME/OUTPUT	INDICATOR	BASELINE LEVEL	TARGET LEVEL 2021	METHOD	FOLLOWUP LEVEL 2018	FOLLOWUP LEVEL 2019	FOLLOWUP LEVEL 2020	FINAL LEVEL 2021
OUTCOME: Community members’ awareness of and attitudes against VAWG have strengthened	% of community members who are aware of negative health effects of FGM (knowledge)	Kenya: 65%, (2016 Gender Analysis), Somaliland:, pharaonic type 56%, sunnah type 45%, (2018 baseline study)	Kenya: 80%, Somaliland:, pharaonic type 70%, sunnah type 60%	Direct beneficiaries: pre-and post-training surveys conducted by implementing partners,, Wider community: household surveys conducted by external consultants,, Disaggregated by gender	Kenya: F46%/M34% schoolchildren, F55%/M56% comm.groups, Somaliland: n.a. 2018	Kenya: F80%/M95% schoolchildren, F71%/M57% comm.groups, Somaliland: pharaonic type 73% sunnah type 53%	Kenya: F66%/M63% of schoolchildren, F57%/M37% comm. groups, Somaliland (UNTF parent survey): pharaonic 96%, sunnah type 78%	Kenya: physical problems (%adults/students), childbirth: 92% /77%, scar tissue and keloid: 52%/52%, sexual problems: 46%/9%, menstrual problems: 20%/92%, need for later surgeries: 10%/3%, psychological problems (% adults): stress: 59%, low self esteem: 57%, depression: 33%, Somaliland, UNTF parent survey: pharaonic 99%/sunnah 90%, Soydavo: pharaonic 70%/sunnah 60%
	% of community members who are aware of the law criminalizing FGM (knowledge)	Kenya: 82%, (2016 Gender Analysis)	Kenya: 90%		Kenya: n.a. 2018	Kenya: F80%/M99%	Kenya: F93%/M82%	Kenya: 99-100% (2 project scale)
	% of community members who do not think FGM is mandated by religion (knowledge)	Somaliland: F62%/, M61% (2018 baseline study)	Somaliland: 80%		Somaliland: n.a. 2018	Somaliland: pharaonic type 91% sunnah type 51%	Somaliland (UNTF parent survey): pharaonic type 95%, sunnah type 76%	Somaliland (UNTF parent survey): pharaonic 100%/sunnah 86%
	% of community members who do not believe women’s morality is guaranteed by FGM (attitude)	Kenya: 25%, (2016 Gender Analysis), Somaliland: F83%/M73% (SOYDAVO 2018 baseline)	Kenya: 50%, Somaliland: 100%		Kenya: n.a. 2018, Somaliland: n.a. 2018	Kenya: F35%/M37%, Somaliland: pharaonic type 88% sunnah type 87%	Kenya: F16%/M18%, Somaliland (UNTF parent survey): pharaonic type 90%, sunnah type 89%	Kenya: 78%, Somaliland (UNTF parent survey): pharaonic 100%/sunnah 98%
	% of community members who aim NOT to cut their daughters (behavioural aims)	Kenya: 27%, (2016 Gender Analysis), Somaliland: (2018 baseline), 0% aim NOT cut at all, 75% aim sunnah cut, 25% aim pharaonic cut	Kenya: 50%, Somaliland:, 50% aim NOT cut at all, 50% aim sunnah cut, 0% aim pharaonic cut		Kenya: collected end-of-project, Somaliland: n.a. 2018	Kenya: collected end-of-project, Somaliland: 32% aim NOT cut at all, 62% aim sunnah cut, 4% aim pharaonic cut	Kenya: collected end-of-project, Somaliland (UNTF parent survey): 65% aim NOT cut at all, 34% aim sunnah cut, 1% aim pharaonic cut	Kenya: 76%, Somaliland, UNTF parent survey: 85% aim NOT cut at all, 15% aim sunnah cut, 0% aim pharaonic cut, Soydavo: 28%
	% of community members who know where victims of VAWG can seek help (knowledge)	Kenya: F81%/M78%, (2016 Gender Analysis)	Kenya: 100%		Kenya: F96%/M88% schoolchildren, F83%/M81% out-of-school youth, n.a. adults	Kenya: F100%/M96% schoolchildren, F95%/M79% out-of-school youth, F56%/M85% adults	Kenya: F76%/M87% of schoolchildren, F94%/M93% of out-of-school youth, F82%/M95% of adults	Kenya: 75% know chiefs, 55% police, 36% community groups, 34% education providers, 14% health facilities and 3% psychosocial service providers
OUTPUT: VAWG and SRHR awareness raising for community members has been conducted, (excl. duty bearers and opinion leaders)	# directly reached participants to the trainings, discussions, workshops etc. (excluding duty bearers and opinion leaders),	n.a.	Kenya: total 17,539, F4,410/M3,832 schoolchildren, F4,506/M4,791 adults, Somaliland: total 4,863, (F3,474),	Participants list & reports collected by project staff and volunteers	Kenya: total 5,393 (F3,520): 3,098 (F1,876) schoolchildren, 485 (F350) parents, 1,810 (F1,294) youth/women’s/ men’s group members, Somaliland: total 1,151 (F724): 100 (F50) youth, 1,051 (F674) adult	Kenya: total 5,277 (F3,357): 2,712 (F1,594) schoolchildren, 545 (F399) parents, 1,970 (F1,364) youth/women’s men’s group members, Somaliland: total 800 (F475)	Kenya: 3,722 (F2,247) of whom: 2,054 (F1,178) schoolchildren, 340 (F245) parents, 1,328 (F760) youth/women’s men’s group members, Somaliland: total 6,460 (F5,602) SHG women, youth etc.	Kenya: 3,304 (F2,467) of whom: 1,363 (F972) schoolchildren, 202 youth (F124), 169 (F102) parents, 1,570 (F1,269) wo/men’s group members, Somaliland: total 7,805 (F7,418) SHG women, youth etc.
OUTCOME: Duty bearers’ and opinion leaders’ awareness raising against VAWG has strengthened	% of sensitized duty bearers/ opinion leaders who are aware of the negative health effects of FGM (knowledge)	Kenya: (2017 annual data), 60% duty bearers, 80% teachers, Somaliland: (2017 NAFIS annual data; 2018 Candlelight baseline data), 90% policy makers, 70% student activists (pharaonic)/40% (sunnah),	Kenya/Somaliland: 100%	Pre- and post-training surveys conducted by implementing partners; disaggregated by gender	Kenya: F43%/M53% duty bearers, F67%/M65% teachers, Somaliland: n.a. 2018	Kenya: F50%/M35% duty bearers, F94%/M100% teachers, Somaliland: 100% CMC members, 92% religious leaders, 100% student activists	Kenya: F53%/M67% duty bearers, F55%/M73% teachers, Somaliland: 93% CSOs, 71% relig.leaders, 77% trad. leaders, 45% media, 73% student activists, 85% CLA members	Kenya: 83% physical/100% social/69% psychological effects, Somaliland (UNTF output survey), 93% CSOs, 98% relig.leaders, 98% trad.leaders, 95% media, 100% student activists, 90% CLA members
	% of sensitized duty bearers/ opinion leaders who are opposed to all forms of FGM (attitude)	Somaliland: , 83% policy makers (2017 NAFIS annual data), 5% students (2018 Candlelight baseline data)	Somaliland 100%		Somaliland: 67% policy makers, 100% religious leaders, 49% CSOs	Somaliland: 67% policy makers, 100% CSOs, 59% anti-FGM committee members	Somaliland: 67% anti-FGM committee members, (for other groups, monitoring aligned with UNTF indicators, see above indicator)	Somaliland: 100% anti-FGM committee members, (for other groups, monitoring aligned with UNTF indicators, see above)
	% of sensitized duty bearers/ opinion leaders who actively raise awareness against VAWG among their reference groups (behaviour)	Kenya: (2017 annual data), 20% duty bearers,, Somaliland: n.a.	Kenya: 100%, Somaliland: 100%	key informant interviews; disaggregated by gender	Kenya: F30%/M30% duty bearers, F72%/M47% teachers, Somaliland, 80% policy makers, 25% religious leaders, n.a. anti-FGM committee members, n.a. village facilitators, 52% n.a. CMC members, n.a. health workers, n.a. students, 49% CSOs	Kenya: F50%/M40% duty bearers, F76%/M89% teachers, Somaliland: 67% policy makers, n.a. religious leaders, 100% anti-FGM committee members, 100% village facilitators, 52% CMC members, 55% health workers, 50% students, 100% CSOs	Kenya: F7%/M13% duty bearers, F15%/M13% teachers, Somaliland: 66% CSOs, 18% CMCs, 70% SHGs, 100% anti-FGM committee members	Kenya: 100% duty bearers & teachers (small sample, not statistically representative), Somaliland: 83% CSOs, 38% CMCs, 100% SHGs, 100% anti-FGM committee members
	# people reached by duty bearers and opinion leaders raising awareness against VAWG	n.a.	Kenya:, 84,260 (F50%/30,780), Somaliland:, 22,248 (F50%/11,124)	20* (Kenya) / 6* (Somaliland) direct beneficiaries classified as duty bearers / opinion leaders (F50%)	Kenya: 14,900 (F7,450), Somaliland: 4,956 (F2,478)	Kenya: 13,415 (F6,018), Somaliland: 4,520 (F2,750)	Kenya: 7,721 (F3,861), Somaliland: 4,570 (F2,285)	Kenya: 13,185 (F6,593), Somaliland: 4,910 (F2,455)
OUTPUT: Awareness raising capacity of duty bearers and opinion leaders has been supported	# of duty bearers and opinion leaders reached/sensitized	n.a.	Kenya: total 1,867 (F638), local authorities, teachers, church leaders, journalists, researchers, chiefs, male champions, CSO activists, project volunteers, Somaliland: total 3,700 (F2,700), policy makers, religious leaders, journalists, local authorities, clan/community leaders, anti-FGM committee members, Community management committee (CMC) members, CSO activists, student activists,	COLLECTED BY: project staff, COVERAGE: direct beneficiaries (duty bearers/opinion leaders), SOURCE: Project quartal/annual monitoring, DATA DISAGGREGATION: by sub-group and gender	Kenya: total 730 (F288), 348 (F146) local authorities, 122 (f55) teachers, 40 (F15) church leaders, 22 (F12) journalist, 12 (F8) researchers, 40 (F10) chiefs, 72 ‘male champions’, 29 (F13) CSO activists, 45 (F29) project volunteers, Somaliland: total 819 (F555): 15 (F7) policy makers, 47 (religious leaders, 30 (F20) journalists, 14 local authorities, 7 (F5) health workers, 4 (F3) village facilitators, 150 (F150) Anti-FGM Committee members, 42 (F28) CMC members, 430 (F302) CSO activists, 80 (F40) student activists	Kenya: total 826 (F369), 481 (F265) local authorities, 69 (F31) teachers, 40 (F15) church leaders, 22 (F8) journalist, 60 (F32) researchers, 18 (F8) private sector actors, 100 ‘male champions’, 46 (F22) CSO activists, 30 (F21) project volunteers, Somaliland: total 810 (F553): 15 (F7) policy makers, 11 religious leaders, 30 (F20) journalists, 33 local authorities, 11 (F3) health workers, 5 (F2) village facilitators, 100 (F100) Anti-FGM Comm. members, 59 (F37) CMC members, 430 (F302) CSO activists, 120 (F75) student activists, 7 (F7) traditional cutters	Kenya: 565 (F189) of whom: 260 (F94) local authorities, 50 (F28) teachers, 26 (F12) journalists, 18 (F10) researchers, 14 (F8) private sector actor, 130 male champions, 38 (F19) CSO activists,, 27 (F18) project volunteers, Somaliland: 1,625 (F1,109) of whom: 330 CSO members (F166), 640 CLA women, 120 religious leaders, 60 journalists (F30), 175 CMC members (F73), 200 students (F100), 100 Anti-FGM Comm. members (F100)	Kenya: 484 (F196) of whom: 132 (F62) local authorities, 49 (F27) teachers, 13 (F5) journalists, 43 (F25) academics, 9 (F=) private sector actor, 130 male champions, 52 (F35) CSO activists,, 17 (F2) project volunteers, Somaliland: 1,665 (F1,213) of whom: 315 CSO members (F180), 670 CLA women, 120 religious leaders, 60 journalists (F40), 175 CMC members (F92), 200 students (F115), 100 Anti-FGM Comm. members (F100), 25 CSO/ line minist. (F16)
OUTCOME: Women’s status in family and local community has strengthened	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	COLLECTED BY: external consultant, COVERAGE: female beneficiaries & their male spouses, male beneficiaries, SOURCE: Open thematic interviews (individual and focus group) that map qualitatively the empowerment of the female beneficiaries and their experience on the improvement of their possibilities to influence in the family and community. Same method used for mapping the views of men on gender roles, women participation and masculinities, DATA DISAGGREGATION: by gender	n.a.	See Performance Report 2019	See Performance Report 2020	See Performance Report 2018-21

OBJECTIVE III: People and communities are empowered as instigators of global change

OUTCOME/OUTPUT	INDICATOR	BASELINE LEVEL	TARGET LEVEL 2021	FINAL LEVEL 2021
OUTCOME: Development communication and advocacy have reached new people and raised discussion on the special themes of ISF	# of website visitors	Visitors (2016): 36,119 Increase from previous year: 4,283	5,000 visitors more per year	65,731 unique visitors
	# social media followers	Followers (2016): 10,327	5% increase vs previous year every year	+12,8% (17 580 total followers)
	# of people engaged in ISF Facebook page on a daily basis (1)	Engagement (2016): 53,611	60,000 unique users per year	34,620 unique users
	# of new subscribers to ISF newsletter	21% increase in 2018 vs 2017	10% increase vs previous year	+9,3% (6695 subscribers)
	Coverage of ISF on broad media (2)	4 (2016)	4 per year	3 media hits
	Coverage of ISF on selected media	No baseline level	10 per year	22
	# of expert speeches or other introductions requested from ISF on special themes in Finland and in programme countries	13 (2016)	15 per year	23
	% of Facebook followers and website visitors who consider ISF’s content interesting	Website: 86% (2017) Facebook: 98% (2015)	95%	Website: 91% Facebook: 100%
OUTCOME: Global education and volunteering activity have raised people’s knowledge on development themes and participation in the activity of ISF	% of influencers are satisfied with collaboration	No baseline level	85%	100%
	# of people reached in school visits and other global education events	300 (2018)	2019: 700 2020: 900 2021: 1,000 Total: 2,900	No data collected, volunteer projects placed on hold during COVID-19 restrictions
	Labor input of ISF volunteers	375h (2016)	2018: 375 2019: 700 2020: 900 2021: 900	No data collected, volunteer projects placed on hold during COVID-19 restrictions
	% of students who participated in the global education and felt they learned something new	48% (2018)	60%	N/A
OUTCOME: Communication on the programme and the results has corresponded the needs of the supporters and engaged them to the activity and themes of ISF	% of teachers who continued to work on the themes with students even after class	46% (2018)	2019: 60% 2020: 70% 2021: 70%	N/A
	% of supporters who feel ISF has the courage to talk about even the most sensitive topics	No baseline level	80%	95%
	% of supporters who feel ISF is an expert	No baseline level	80%	96%
	# of monthly donors who have cancelled financial support on their own initiative	13% (2016)	< 14 %	6%
OUTPUT: for communication, advocacy and global education	# of supporters who donate at least 100 euros per year	2,148 (2017)	6,000 in 2021	3,102
	# of web publications		40 per year	35
	# of publications targeted at donors (newsletters, annual report, donor news)		15 per year	29
	# of media contacts		10 per year	9
OUTCOME: Local partners have become stronger actors of civil society	# of school visits		40 per year	N/A
	% of ISF implementing partners, who consider that the parternship with ISF has contributed to achieve the partner’s strategic objectives at least significantly	No baseline level	100%	100%
	% of partnerships with implementing pattners in which the partner’s networks support the achievement of the partner’s strategic objectives at least significantly	No baseline level	100%	100%
OUTPUT: The role and capacity of the partners have been strengthened	# of capacity building activities arranged or supported by ISF in which partner staff have participated			Kenya: 7 trainings and 10 netowrking contacts Somaliland: 6 trainings, 4 networking contacts Nicaragua: 4 trainings, 1 network, 9 coworking stores in Nicaragua, few in Costa Rica

1 Number of people who engaged with ISF Facebook page. Engagement includes any click or story created. (Unique users)

2 Magazine and its digital versions’ reach is over 500,000 or the weekly reach of the web publication is over 300,000. The total reach (net) represents the people that the magazine and its different digital versions (web page, sites, facsimile edition, mobile or table application) have reached together, so it is the total amount/netto of the people who have read one issue of the magazine and/or used some of its digital versions during the week. The weekly reach number reports on a media specific basis how many people the media has reached within a week.