

## Annex 1: ISF PROJECT DESCRIPTIONS 2023

### KENYA

#### International Solidarity Foundation (ISF) - Muungano Gender Forum

- Goal: Prevalence of violence against women and girls in Nyamira and Kisii is reduced
- Timeframe/Project phase: 2022-25 (launched in 2018)
- Budget 2023: 106 207€
- Geographical scope: Kisii and Nyamira counties
- Direct beneficiaries 2022-25: 8 240 (220 girls, 220 boys, 5 000 women, 2 800 men) of which 300 PwD
- Final beneficiaries 2022-25: 18 000 (10 000 girls, 8 000 women)

ISF's Muungano Gender Forum (Muungano meaning 'together') is a multisectoral platform for discussing women's rights in Kisii and Nyamira counties. The project complements ISF's partner-led projects and contributes to their objectives. When it was launched in 2018, it organized monthly sessions in Kisii town. Already in 2021, Muungano expanded into rural communities. In 2022-25, it has two main components: weekly grassroots dialogues in the 11 rural locations where the partners operate and cooperation with Kisii and Nyamira County Governments to coordinate civil society organizations' efforts to fulfill women's rights.

The main development processes in 2023 are as follows:

Muungano will bring experts in various topics as well as local duty bearers such as local administrators, judicial officials, child protection officers, police and chiefs to the weekly forums taking place in target communities. The aim is to increase mutual trust and thereby enhance reporting and victim sensitive processing of violence against women and girls (VAWG) cases. The local Streeting Committee has quarterly meetings where they identify topic and speakers for the coming forums.

With the Kisii and Nyamira County Governments and other local stakeholders, Muungano aims to increase the dialogue at grassroots level via, for example, celebration of International UN Days such as the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence in November-December. Furthermore, Muungano will arrange advocacy meetings to popularize the ISF Alternative Rite of Passage (ARP) approach and manual among the CSOs working in Kisii and Nyamira counties.

Muungano will continue advocating for the importance of women's income generation. Some of the grassroots forums will focus on economic empowerment themes. Also, a quarterly trade fair event called Soko Freshi will be organized to increase women farmers' visibility and to link them with input suppliers and food companies.

Muungano continues developing its advocacy and communications work by, for example, participating in county and national events, improving media and social media coverage, and collecting participant feedback after each rural dialogue.

## International Solidarity Foundation (ISF) and Finnish Development NGOs (Fingo) - Partnership and Innovation Advisor

- Goal: Hosting of Fingo Partnership and Innovation Advisor at ISF Nairobi office
- Timeframe/Project phase: 2022-2023 (first phase in 2021)
- Budget 2023: 59 142€
- Geographical scope: East Africa

The purpose of the partnership is to support the implementation of the Fingo Powerbank programme extension in Kenya (and East Africa when feasible). The practical objective of the partnership is hosting Partnership and Innovation Advisor at ISF Nairobi office in 2022 and 2023 so that Fingo will cover the related expenses for ISF. The recruited Partnership and Innovation Advisor will be operating as an ISF Kenya team employee, while fully committed to implementing the Fingo Powerbank.

## Bosinya Women's Community-based Organization (BWCBO) – Improving BWCBO women farmers' livelihood resilience

- Goal: Women's livelihood resilience is improved
- Timeframe/Project phase: 2022-25 (first phase in 2020-21)
- Budget 2023: 66 686€
- Geographical scope: Bosamaro, Manga and Magombo sublocations in Nyamira county
- Direct beneficiaries 2022–25: 940 (100 girls, 380 women, 100 boys, 360 men)
- Final beneficiaries 2022–25: 2 000 (700 girls, 300 women, 700 boys, 300 men)

The project strengthens women's capacity to lead and manage their own business collective, increases women's access to skills development and innovation processes, and improves women's access to productive inputs and markets. The project includes activities to reduce violence against women and girls, utilizing expertise from ISF local partner CECOME. The community dialogues organized by the Muungano Gender Forum will complement these activities. BWCBO will also improve its disability inclusion policies and procedures. The project builds BWCBO's capacity to include people with disabilities (PwD) in all the livelihood activities and improves livelihood of families with PwDs.

The main development processes in 2023 are as follows:

The project trains peer advisers and other BWCBO members in climate smart farming practices. The Farm Forestry Smallholder Producers Association of Kenya (FF-SPAK) organizes training workshops to the BWCBO staff and members in climate adaptation and mitigation planning, special focus in agro-forestry. The project trains women in seed selection, handling, package and storage to improve women's access to quality seeds.

The project equips the demonstration farm with water collection and irrigation kits and trains women in using and maintaining small-scale drip irrigation systems. The project continues testing of and training women in composting and organic manure production in the demonstration farm.

The project trains women in mushroom hut production and tests mushroom and vegetable drying and grinding in newly set pre-processing plant. The project purchases new mushroom growing equipment. The project continues enhancing women's skills in farming indigenous vegetables.

The project builds women's capacity in storage, processing and packaging in line with national food safety standards (with Kenya Bureau of Standards) and explores the possibilities of using local by-products in the production of environmentally friendly packaging materials.

The project supports BWCBO in identification of new buyers for all its products and builds its capacities in contracting. The BWCBO aims to sell the first batch of mushrooms and composted fertilizer in 2023. The project carries out market surveys on their key products.

The BWCBO participates in Soko Freshi trade fairs organised by Muunagno Gender Forum to showcase their products, and to map new buyers and input suppliers. The BWCBO posts entrepreneurship success stories and testimonials of women to social media to show other women opportunities and to build brand of the BWCBO products.

The project produces a disability inclusion training-of-trainers manual and trains disability inclusion peer advisers who will conduct sensitization sessions (including videos and champion stories) for the BWCBO members. People with disabilities participate in the planning of the disability inclusion component and awareness raising sessions.

The project trains a group of volunteers to mitigate violence against women and girls (VAWG) and organizes dialogue sessions on VAWG and women's economic empowerment (including videos and theater) with women, other community members and leaders, and schools. The community dialogues organized by the Muungano Gender Forum and the Fingo experiment project complement these activities.

The project will be subject to an external mid-term evaluation that focuses on learning, and the development of the implementation strategies and sustainability.

## Centre for Community Mobilisation and Empowerment (CECOME) – Shielding women and girls' rights

- Goal: Prevalence of FGM and partner violence is reduced in project areas
- Timeframe/Project phase: 2022-25 (similar project in other locations in 2016-21)
- Budget 2023: 116 667€
- Geographical scope: Megogo, Omoenga and Metembe sublocations in Kisii county
- Direct beneficiaries 2022–25: 1 780 (670 girls, 480 women, 140 boys, 480 men) of which 20 PwD
- Final beneficiaries 2022–25: 6 300 (3 700 girls, 2 600 women)

The project aims to reduce partner violence and FGM in three sub-locations in Kisii county by mobilizing key moral and judicial duty bearers, addressing impunity and providing nonviolent alternatives to harmful practices. Communication activities such as IEC materials, social media posts, radio and TV programs, blogs, press releases and opinion articles complement and contribute to the overall success of the project. The project also includes activities to strengthen CECOME's knowledge and skills in promoting women's livelihood resilience, utilizing expertise from ISF local livelihood partners.

Muungano Gender Forum (see above) will complement the project through the grassroots dialogues organized in the CECOME target communities, through improved county-level coordination of CSO efforts to mitigate violence against women and girls, and by supporting the implementation of Kisii Costed Action Plan to end FGM.

The main development processes in 2023 are as follows:

25 local administrators (paralegals, village elders, 'mijikumi' leaders, and chiefs) will be trained and encouraged to play an active role in educating community about FGM health risks and criminal sanctions during Baraza (community outreach). There will be dialogues and sporting events between community members and local administrators to increase the community's trust in the local administrators when dealing with FGM and partner violence cases. The project will collaborate with the Children's Department to strengthen the Area Advisory Council (AAC), and reporting and follow-up mechanisms in case of FGM, partner violence and other forms of violence. In collaboration with local administrators, 12 trained community health care workers will continue sensitizing the community of the harmful effects of FGM, hold family dialogues and monthly awareness sessions to increase the trust between the administrators and community members.

CECOME continues to provide bi-annual refresher trainings for the religious leaders on partner violence and FGM. There will be 12 church outreach sessions targeting specific religious groups, and quarterly feedback and follow-up sessions with the trained groups. Also, interchurch exchange sessions with other churches will be organized, and sensitized religious leaders will be engaged in communication activities such as podcasts and radio talk shows.

Refresher trainings will be arranged also for the youth peer influencers, using the Alternative Rite of Passage (ARP) curriculum, specifically designed for minors. Each year, a new group of 10 girls from the nine target schools (altogether 90 girls each year) will go through the ARP curriculum. There will be 27 peer club sessions conducted per month in 9 schools by the peer club leaders. Semi-annual orientation meetings for teachers will be done to support peer leaders. In addition, there will be other school-related activities including monthly FGM sensitization and parenting skill workshops for the parents conducted by community health workers and joint parent-child sessions on FGM carried out by project staff.

CECOME will engage in collaboration with the County, Anti-FGM Board and other stakeholders through Gender sector working groups, networking visits and Area Advisory Council meetings to amplify voices against GBV. For instance, relevant International UN Days will be marked, including FGM Day, International Day of the Girl Child, International Women's Day, 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence, and International Day of the Rural Women.

Lastly, CECOME plans a livelihood pilot with project beneficiaries and their self-help groups (targeting families with vulnerable children). The planning phase of this pilot consist of identifying potential livelihood sources, assessing needs and benchmarking stakeholders. The implementation starts in the second half of the year.

## Manga Health Education African Resource Team (Manga HEART) – Promoting women and girls' prosperity

- Goal: Prevalence of FGM and partner violence is reduced in project areas
- Timeframe/Project phase: 2022-25 (similar project in other locations in 2016-21)
- Budget 2023: 116 731€
- Geographical scope: Irianyi and Motembe sublocations in Nyamira county
- Direct beneficiaries 2022–25: 1 350 (500 girls, 200 women, 500 boys, 150 men) of which 50 PwD
- Final beneficiaries 2022–25: 8 600 (6 300 girls, 2 300 women)

The project aims to reduce FGM and partner violence in two sub-locations in Nyamira county by mobilizing key moral and judicial duty bearers, addressing impunity and providing nonviolent alternatives to harmful practices. Trained volunteers play a key role in the project implementation. Communication activities such as IEC materials, social media posts, radio and TV programs, blogs, WhatsApp chats, and bulk SMS contribute to the overall success of the project.

Muongano Gender Forum (see above) will complement the project through the grassroots community dialogues organized in the Manga HEART target communities, through improved county-level coordination of CSO anti-VAWG efforts, and by supporting the drafting of Nyamira Costed Action Plan to end FGM. Also, expertise from ISF local livelihood partners will be utilized to strengthen Manga HEART's knowledge and skills in promoting women's livelihood resilience.

The main development processes in 2023 are as follows:

To build trust between community members and local government officials (chiefs and clan elders), and thereby encourage community members to report cases of FGM and partner violence to the officials, Manga HEART will organize 20 workshops for men, women and youth and support them to use available mobile applications in reporting.

Also, 30 duty bearers (clan elders, chiefs, religious leaders, police) are sensitized on the high prevalence, preventability, seriousness, and unacceptability of FGM and partner violence. They are encouraged to disseminate information in dialogue sessions with the community, to handle survivors with respect, report cases and arrest perpetrators, as well as to work together in coordinated way to mitigate VAWG.

To mitigate medicalization of FGM, Manga HEART sensitizes 15 health professionals on the legislation, health risks and human rights aspects of FGM and other forms of VAWG. Trained community health workers are mobilized as champions against harmful practices and engaged in dialogue and private counselling sessions with community members.

50 girls and 50 boys (per session per school) in 5 schools will be empowered to resist FGM in school-based workshops where risks related to FGM, and services for seeking help are discussed. Creative activities (such as signing, poems, sports) are carried out. 20 teachers are trained on these issues and encouraged to disseminate knowledge in the classroom.

Each year, 100 girls from the target schools will be taken through Alternative Rite of Passage (ARP) curriculum, specifically designed for children under the age of 12. In parallel, their parents participate trainings on FGM and other forms of violence. At the graduation ceremony, girls and their parents make public declarations to reject FGM, thereby becoming role models in their communities. In addition 100 boys will also be trained on life skills and be graduated alongside the girls to act as boy champions against FGM and GBV.

Manga HEART will engage in collaboration with the County and other stakeholders. Relevant International UN Days will be marked, including FGM Day, International Day of the Girl Child, International Women's Day and 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence.

Lastly, ISF will include a livelihood component in this project to expand women's sphere of influence at home and in the communities. Manga HEART plans to develop its capacity and contacts in improving women's livelihood especially through poultry farming and feeding poultry with local by-products. For this they will map stakeholders in feed formulation, make benchmarking visits and establish small demo site and training centre. The poultry value chain was selected

because there is local expertise, it is easy to scale up to other women groups, local feed formulation reduces efficiently costs in poultry production and there is a market for local poultry feed. In the community sessions Manga Heart will promote discussion on the women's economic role, decision making within the family on the resources and women's role in the community.

## Nyamira North Women Savings and Credit Cooperative (NNWS) – Building capacities of NNWS women farmers for sustainable livelihoods

- Goal: Wellbeing of NNWS women farmers is improved
- Timeframe/project phase: 2022-25 (first phase in 2020-21)
- Budget 2023: 91 340€
- Geographical scope: Itibo, Ekerenyo and Magwagwa wards in Nyamira County
- Direct beneficiaries 2022–25: 450 (350 women and 100 men) of which 40 PwD
- Final beneficiaries 2022-25: 8 100 (3 000 girls, 1 500 women, 3 000 boys, 600 men)

The project improves cooperative's operational and commercial capacity and its members' knowledge, skills and networks in selected value chains. The project builds collaboration with experts and other businesses for value addition of women's production and improves women's access to livelihood resources such as land, water, technology and finance. The project includes activities to reduce violence against women and girls, utilizing expertise from ISF local partner CECOME. The community dialogues organized by the Muungano Gender Forum will complement these activities. NNWS will also improve its disability inclusion policies and procedures.

The main development processes in 2023 are as follows:

One of the main objectives for the year is to ensure that the cooperative knows how to run the newly equipped collection and processing centre and is capable to produce marketable dried and powdered vegetables and mushrooms. Women are trained in post-harvest handling technologies and methods (storage, drying and grinding and packaging) and by testing the project looks for optimal processing methods to ensure the marketable quality of the product. The project continues exploring possibilities of using local by-products in the production of environmentally friendly packaging materials, special interest in banana by-products.

The peer training program is in operation and most of the expert-based trainings on agricultural practices and business management are targeted to peer advisers. The project cooperates with BWCBO and Ministry of Agriculture in Nyamira in improving women's capacity in producing compost fertilizers, including vermicompost and vermiliquid. The project trains women in seed selection, handling, package and storage. The Farm Forestry Smallholder Producers Association of Kenya (FF-SPAK) trains cooperative and County staff in climate adaptation and mitigation planning, special focus in agro-forestry.

The cooperative continues contract farming of indigenous vegetables with Mace Foods Ltd and selling mushrooms to Böna Factory Ltd. The project supports establishment of a community shop for cooperative products on the pre-processing centre premises. The project helps the cooperative to draw up a long-term business plan.

The cooperative and its members participate in Soko Freshi trade fairs organised by Muunagno Gender Forum to showcase their products, and to map new buyers and input suppliers.

The project equips the demonstration farm with additional multi-storey gardens and explores possibilities to improve water supply of the farm in dry season. Testing the farming of legumes, chilis and nuts continues in the demonstration plots.

The project forms farmers' interactive platform for sharing and sourcing information, such as weather, agricultural practices, market information and follow up on savings and loan data.

The project trains a group of volunteers to mitigate violence against women and girls (VAWG) and organizes dialogue sessions on VAWG and women's economic empowerment (including videos and theater) with women, other community members and leaders, and schools. The community dialogues organized by the Muungano Gender Forum and the Fingo experiment project complement these activities. Also, the project develops IEC materials and trains peer trainers on inclusion of people with disabilities.

The project will be subject to an external mid-term evaluation that focuses on learning, and the development of the implementation strategies and sustainability.

## SOMALILAND

### Agriculture Development Organization (ADO) – Improving women's livelihood and strengthening agro-pastoralists' capacity to adapt to climate change

- Goal: Women and men farmers' improved livelihood resilience in Togdheer and Sanaag regions
- Timeframe/Project phase: 2022-2025
- Budget 2023: 154 506€
- Geographical scope: Boodhlay village in Burao district/Togdheer region, Xidh, Gaacidh, and Midhisho villages in Erigavo district/Sanaag region
- Direct beneficiaries 2022–25: 1100 (550 women, 550 men), of which 50 PwD
- Final beneficiaries 2022-25: 7300 (2700 girls, 1000 women, 2700 boys, 900 men)

The project develops village-level Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and land-use plans (water-food-forest-energy) to mitigate and improve preparedness to the adverse effects of extreme weather. The project promotes rainwater harvesting, irrigation and greenhouse farming to improve production security of cereals, vegetables, legumes and livestock. To improve access to drought-resistant seeds, the project introduces to target areas seed banking technology. The project promotes beekeeping and poultry farming and improves the availability of fodder.

The project forms women's livelihood groups, capacitates them and increases their access to community and cooperative decision-making and resources. Promoting women's productive roles manifests in a heightened risk of partner and/or non-partner violence and harassment. The project entail strategies to mitigate these risks, such as discussions in men's groups and family dialogues and dialogue with village elders. The project team utilizes the expertise of ISF partners who specialize in the prevention of violence against women and girls.

The main development processes in 2023 are as follows:

In 2022, the project rehabilitated water canals, water storage Berkads (open water reservoir pools) and repaired flood erosion damages in the project villages. In 2023, the project develops village farming systems based on this improvement in the availability of water. The project trains key

women and men farmers from each village in drought preparedness and climate adaptation methods and establishes Village Climate Adaptation Committees that develop village-level DRR plans.

The project provides cereal, legume and vegetable seeds to all project villages and trains women and men in soil, water and fodder conservation and sustainable agricultural practices. Farmers are also trained in on-farm seed selection. In Boodhlay in Burao district, the project trains women and men in rangeland management and constructs 5000 meters of contour soil bunds to control flood damages. Pilot group of 10 women and 10 men in Sanaag are trained in beekeeping and they are given basic beekeeping equipment.

The key women and men farmers, including youth, are trained on the basics of sustainable natural resource management and environmental protection. Based on new knowledge and skills, the village committees develop nature positive land-use plans to support long-term drought-preparedness, flood damage control and climate mitigation. The plans guide project activities in the coming years.

The project trains women and men on crop marketing and selling and maps potential creditors to improve access to finance. The project forms women's self-help groups (SHG) in every village and trains women in savings and loan schemes and basic business management skills. The selected cooperative management teams are trained in leadership and management and the project supports cooperatives in developing or updating their bylaws.

The project organizes discussions on the role of women in agriculture and on the negative effects of violence against women and girls, and how to prevent and mitigate it.

## Somaliland Youth and Development Voluntary Organization (SOYDAVO) – Entrenching community mechanisms to mitigate SGBV/FGM

- Goal: Communities reject SGBV/FGM through attitude change and improved livelihoods
- Timeframe/Project phase: 2022-2025
- Budget 2023: 128 571€
- Geographical scope: Carmale, Yufle and Dayaxa villages in Sanaag region and Burao IDPs in Togdheer region
- Direct beneficiaries 2022–25: 4 280 (80 girls, 2800 women, 1400 men) of which 200 PwD
- Final beneficiaries 2022-25: 23 600 (15 000 girls, 18 600 women)

The project aims to address harmful practices and violence against women and girls (VAWG, used interchangeably with sexual and gender-based violence, SGBV) through working with grassroots-level decision makers (traditional and religious leaders) as well as women's self-help groups (SHG), parents and adolescent girls. The action intends to empower the community to take an active role and ownership of efforts to reduce VAWG, particularly FGM and partner violence, but also early marriage and non-partner sexual violence. It addresses the impunity surrounding VAWG by providing women knowledge on their legal and human rights and formal referral mechanisms and support services.

The project intends to build stronger and better collaborations between the regional government officials, village committees, religious leaders, and other community role models. Moreover, it intends to establish a network of champions who will spearhead the spreading of messages and formation of girl clubs and community committees equipped with knowledge about the negative consequences



of VAWG and rigid gender norms. Men and boys will be provided with opportunities to underscore the significant role they can play in the prevention of VAWG in target locations.

To build trust and address poverty that underlies many forms of VAWG, the project trains women in tailoring, young men in masonry and selected families in poultry farming. In this livelihood component, men are engaged in the dialogue on the role of women in income generation and joint decision-making of the family resources. Encouraging families to work together, in both the provision of labour and income generation, makes joint decision-making easier and more acceptable.

The main development processes in 2023 are as follows:

To mitigate the embedded misbelief in the community that FGM is part of practicing Islam, 90 religious and traditional leaders will be trained to publicly advocate against the practice. They also gain knowledge on how to apply victim-sensitive and statutory mechanisms to respond to cases of FGM and other forms of VAWG. 120 women belonging to SHG and other women's groups will be trained on reporting VAWG cases, and mobilized to participate in awareness-raising. 80 young girls will be trained on human rights and Islamic rights of women, and supported to carry out public awareness raising campaigns.

The project gives a 6-month tailoring course to 80 adult and adolescent women who live in IDP camp in Burao. Also 35 young men are trained in masonry. To support trained women's commercial development, the project conducts a business case and market study on the cloth menstrual pads in Somaliland. In addition, the project builds capacity of 30 women in Sanaag in poultry farming and gives them hens and basic poultry farming equipment.

## Somaliland Youth PEER Education Network (Y-PEER) – Zero tolerance to all forms of FGM and violence against women and girls

- Goal: All forms of FGM and VAWG decrease in project target areas
- Timeframe/Project phase: 2022-2025
- Budget 2023: 138 095€
- Geographical scope: Xaafis soomal, Dayacan and Caydhaha IDPs in Erigavo district/Sanaag region, Dayaxa and Nuura villages in Sheikh district/Sanaag region, Cadaw yurura, Ali-saahid, Ina dhakool villages in Buroa district/Togdheer region
- Direct beneficiaries 2022–25: 3 900 (10 girls, 2 900 women, 40 boys, 950 men) of which 80 PwD
- Final beneficiaries 2022-25: 20 800 (13 000 girls, 7 800 women)

The project aims to reduce violence against women and girls (VAWG), particularly FGM, in the target areas. Regional and district political leaders and councilors are encouraged to participate in advocacy efforts, and local religious and traditional leaders are sensitized and incited to speak out in their communities. Grassroot health and social workers and judicial staff are trained to take active role in efforts to decrease all form of VAWG.

While these activities engage the judicial and moral duty bearers and aim to challenge the normative expectations (what people believe others think they ought to do), also rights holders are engaged, and impunity addressed by supporting vulnerable women to utilize available medical and judicial services for VAWG survivors. Empirical expectations (what people expect others to do) are

challenged by reaching out to community role models (women, men, girls and boys) who will be supported to make public declarations against FGM and other forms of VAWG.

The main development processes in 2023 are as follows:

The project will arrange annual trainings on advocacy skills and bi-annual sensitization and follow-up meetings between local political leaders, councilors, and sheikhs (local religious leaders) in each target location. In collaboration with Ministry of Religious Affairs, the project will train religious and traditional leaders on prevention and FGM and other forms of VAWG. In each target location, the project will hold meetings where Islamic scholars are invited to publicly discuss the rights of Muslim women.

Community health and social workers will be given bi-annual on-job training on lobbying and advocacy skills to encourage application of statutory (not customary) referral mechanisms. Leaflets will be produced for informing communities about the available VAWG survivor services.

Women and girls in the target communities will be invited in bi-annual open discussions about their rights. Sensitized religious and traditional leaders and role models will be engaged as speakers. A mobile caravan with Y-PEER volunteer actors will be set out with campaign messages on FGM and early marriage. Recorded performances will be shared in Y-PEER social media platforms.

At schools, school children will produce child-friendly theatre performances on the negative consequences of FGM, early marriage and gender inequality. Child-friendly leaflets and booklets about the rights of women and girls in Islam will be designed and printed. Also, poetry and arts competitions addressing these topics will be organized. Boys Against FGM (BAF) groups will be established and receive regular support in Sheikh (1 group) and Erigavo (2 groups). Also, girls, women and men will be trained as role models against FGM.

To reach out beyond the target communities, FGM related debates between sheikhs and live call-in shows will be aired on Radio Hargeisa. International FGM Day will be commemorated in February and 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence in November-December. Youth audience will be targeted with featured articles and stories in the locally well-known BAAQ Magazine.

## Barwaaqo Voluntary Organization (BVO) – Reducing all forms of sexual and gender-based violence

- Goal: Women's increased capacity to prevent sexual and gender-based violence
- Timeframe/Project phase: 2022-2025
- Budget 2023: 76 190€
- Geographical scope: Ceel-seme, Ceel bilicile hawlwadaag and Barwaaqo villeges in Odweyne district/Togdheer region
- Direct beneficiaries 2022–25: estimation 6 500 (1 500 girls, 2 200 women, 1 600 boys, 1 200 men) of which 80 PwD
- Final beneficiaries 2022-25: estimation 36 000 (22 000 girls, 14 000 women)

The project aims to empower women to identify and mitigate violence against women and girls (VAWG, used interchangeably with sexual and gender-based violence, SGBV), focusing on FGM, but also addressing early marriage, partner violence, and non-partner sexual violence. To achieve this, local traditional and religious leaders with authority on moral issues will be sensitized about

VAWG and their role in mitigating it. They will be invited to speak in community dialogues with women, men, and youth living in the target communities.

BVO will also establish grassroot level anti-FGM and anti-VAWG committees who will carry out house to house visits in their villages, convincing parents to stop FGM. In all project sites, BVO will establish school clubs where girls are educated on their right to bodily integrity. They are also invited to produce and participate in dramas that aim to sensitize other community members of the negative consequences of FGM.

To enhance gender equality and the reasons underlying VAWG, the project promotes women's income generation. It strengthens women's self-help groups (SHG) in two communities in Togdheer by training women in tailoring skills and buying them sewing machines and materials. In Ceel same and Ceel bilicile communities, the project organises literacy and numeracy classes for female small-scale entrepreneurs to help them control and improve their businesses.

The project is in the planning phase until end-December 2022, so detailed 2023 activity plans remain incomplete by the time of writing.

## Network against FGM in Somaliland (NAFIS) – Accelerating efforts to combat FGM and early marriage

In January 2023, ISF will start a planning phase for a new project with NAFIS. Initially, the project will focus on prevention of FGM and early marriage in Togdheer, Sanaag and Sool regions. Building on NAFIS special role and mandate as a network organization, the focus will be on coordination & advocacy. The project implementation is expected to start in July 2023.

## Partner(s) to be identified – Supporting women's livelihoods and bodily integrity

In late 2022, ISF started a planning process to identify a new livelihood project to support women who market and sell milk and meat in in Burao and/or in Erigavo (town and/or IDPs). The project will focus on expert cooperation with universities, private sector and other development projects in solving main problems of the women, such as lack of association and basic business skills, inadequate food hygiene, and poor working conditions and safety in marketplaces. The project implementation is expected to start in July 2023.

## PUNTLAND

ISF will select one local partner for FGM prevention in Puntland. The project planning will start in early 2023 and implementation earliest in the second half of 2023.

## ETHIOPIA

A call for local partners in the Somali region of Ethiopia will be done in early 2023. The planning with newly selected partners is expected to start in March-April and will last till the end of 2023.