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Cover photo: Browline Omondi

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1. Introduction

2022 was the first year of implementing the **ISF 2022-2025 strategy**. During the year, significant efforts were done to secure funding for the programme. In total, four funding submissions were prepared for the EU and UN agencies. The year was also characterised by changes in the programme management and the financial administration structure. The restructuring aims to reinforce results-based management, institutional fundraising, and financial management in ISF, both in programme countries and at HQs. The strategic performance is described in detail in the chapter 2.

Also, 2022 was the first year of implementing the **ISF 2022-2025 development cooperation programme**. The programme and the 2022 annual plan were revised at the beginning of the year based on the funding decision received from the Finnish Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) in December 2021. The programme aims to strengthen women and girls' bodily integrity and livelihood resilience in Ethiopia, Kenya, and Somaliland, and has the following five outcomes:

- **Outcome 1:** Judicial and moral duty bearers take actions to mitigate violence against women and girls (VAWG)
- **Outcome 2:** Women and girls collectively claim their rights
- **Outcome 3:** Women's sphere of influence has expanded
- **Outcome 4:** Women benefit from services and networks that support livelihood reform
- **Outcome 5:** Improved capacity of farm systems to mitigate and adapt to climate change

During the year, altogether **11 projects** were either in the planning and implementing phase. Four new projects were planned in Somaliland, while two projects in Somaliland and five in Kenya continued or had already been planned at the end of the previous programme period. Three of the four new projects in Somaliland entered implementation in the second

half of the year. The Somaliland programme includes Sanaag region, which is a new target area for ISF. It is a disputed area in the east of Somaliland with significant development challenges.

In East Africa, the year was characterised by the ongoing **COVID-19 pandemic** and one of the worst **droughts** ever witnessed in the region, which affects millions of people. On the positive side, the general elections in Kenya were conducted peacefully and the transition has been smooth.

One of the main challenges that ISF faced in 2022 was starting operations in the **Somali region of Ethiopia**, which is a new programme country for ISF. The registration of ISF was significantly delayed due to the conflict and related challenges in obtaining NGO permits. Finally in September, ISF received the registration certificate almost one year later than planned. In November, ISF started the recruitment process for local staff in cooperation with a local recruitment company. Similarly in **Puntland State of Somalia**, ISF advertised a new position in December 2022 and carried out a study on FGM work to guide its programme planning. The plan is to start operations in both Ethiopia and Puntland in 2023.

In 2022, ISF programme in Kenya reached over 25,000 people directly (63% girls/women), and over 63,000 final beneficiaries whose lives are expected to improve due to the programme interventions (97% girls/women). Most projects within the Somaliland programme entered the implementation phase during the latter half of the year. They reached altogether over 5,000 people directly (69% girls/women), and over 32,000 final (or indirect) beneficiaries (87% girls/women). In total, the programme reached **close to 127,000 people directly or indirectly**, of whom 39% were girls and 48% were women (see table 1).

The programme performance including major developments in the operating environment are described in the chapters 3-4 per country and the supporting annex (results matrix).

TABLE 1 | Different beneficiaries reached by ISF programme in 2022

	female minors	female adults	male minors	male adults	TOTAL	% female	people w. disabilities
Kenya							
direct benef.	1 242	14 809	1 459	7 825	25 335	63%	129
final benef.	35 818	25 766	1 266	692	63 542	97%	n.a.
Somaliland							
direct benef.	130	3 560	38	1 589	5 317	69%	53
final benef.	11 729	16 642	1 732	2 471	32 574	87%	n.a.
TOTAL	48 919	60 777	4 495	12 577	126 768	87%	

2. Strategic performance

ISF's 2022 – 2025 strategy builds on ISF's previous work and key achievements, especially expertise on matters related to violence against women. In 2030, ISF aims to be a pathfinder empowering women and girls in East Africa. To achieve this vision, ISF has three strategic objectives that guide planning and decision-making. Below, ISF performance in 2022 in each objective is briefly reported.

ISF is a key enabler in the eradication of FGM in East Africa

In addition to the programme work on FGM prevention described in chapters 3–4, ISF aims to enhance its own capacity as a key enabler in the eradication of FGM in East Africa by 2025.

In 2022, the recruitment of **Somaliland-based Senior Adviser on Gender-Based Violence** was a significant investment in ISF's East African expertise in FGM prevention. In 2022, the programme team's focus regarding this strategic objective was on the Somaliland project planning phase during which best FGM prevention methodologies were mapped together with local implementing partners. Also, country specific systematic 4-year plans to build ISF's and its partners' **competence and networking** in FGM prevention (as well as other topics necessary for effective development processes) were initiated.

Redesign of ISF's **English webpage** started: one of the goals is to better communicate ISF's solutions and achievements in FGM prevention. Also, English communications material emphasizing ISF strategic focus areas was produced.

ISF has growing, stable funding

During the year, ISF made changes to its programme management structure (see below) to strengthen its capacity in institutional fundraising. In addition, a new **Grant Manager** position (based in East Africa) was approved for 2023. The Grant Manager will be responsible for preparing funding submissions and developing donor relations. At the same time, ISF continued to strengthen relations with key donors in East Africa, particularly in the field of gender-based violence.

Significant efforts were done to secure funding for the programme. In total, **four funding submissions** were prepared for the EU and UN agencies. The applications to the UN were made at the turn of the year and decisions will be made in 2023. In December 2022, the EU provided 1.1 million euros for ISF's FGM work in Kenya for the years 2023–2026. It is the first major EU grant for ISF. Together with the previously received UN grant for similar work in Somaliland (2020–2022), these will hopefully pave the way for more funding opportunities in the future.

In private fundraising, investments were done in **monthly donor acquisition**. Face to face fundraising was outsourced to a vendor to ensure efficient B2C operations and resources. Lead funnels were strengthened both with digital marketing automation and telecommunications.

ISF is an adaptive and learning organisation

ISF aims to reinforce its resilience and ability to reform itself. In 2022, the main organisational reform concentrated on strengthening and developing guidelines, processes, roles and responsibilities within the financial administration—a key to good governance and high-quality programme implementation. The new finance and administration team structure and functions were outlined: a fixed-term **Financial Assistant** was hired to support the transition period at the HQs, and a **Programme Controller** position was established to support the project implementation and partners' financial administration (recruitment completed by the end of 2022). Also, a new online accounting system was introduced in Kenya and Somaliland offices.

There were also changes within the programme management structure, to enhance results-based management, institutional fundraising, and financial management, both in programme countries and at HQs. As of January 2022, the structure includes a **Programme Manager** who is responsible for planning, monitoring, evaluation and learning in the organisation, and supervises two senior advisers. Also, Finance Coordinator positions were created in each country. Thereby, the **standardised country team structure** now includes a Country Director reporting to the Programme Director in Finland, two thematic field coordinators (based in Kisii in Kenya and Burao in Somaliland), and one Finance and Administration Coordinator (based in the capitals) in each country.

In order to build an organisational culture that encourages learning, ISF continued to develop **internal communication channels and forums**. Regular online dialogue between country programme and HQ staff as well as effective and smooth use of Microsoft Teams platform was enhanced. Cohesion and communality throughout the organisation were boosted via e.g. online Solidarity Day workshops as well as Extended Management Committee online meetings with Country Directors. Staff development plans included building up expertise and motivation in each position. Unfortunately, a strategy, learning and programme development workshop planned to take place in Kenya in November 2022 had to be postponed to 2023 due to challenges in the processing of Somali visas by Kenyan authorities. The workshop will play an important role in creating a joint understanding of ISF's new strategy and programme for all staff.

Photo: Nyasha Kadandara



3. Programme performance in Kenya

Operating environment

General elections were held in Kenya in August 2022. During the campaigning period, people's participation in the program activities was low. Some farmers participated in the campaigning, leaving their farms unattended. It was difficult to transport products to buyers during campaigning which affected sales volumes. Also, some candidates wanted to change ISF Muungano Gender Forum community sessions into campaigning events which made forum arrangements difficult.

For the first time in Kenya's history, a presidential candidate (not the elected one) chose a woman as his vice presidential candidate. There was also an increase from 3 to 7 in the number of **women voted for Governor positions**. In Nyamira County, the new (male) Governor appointed three female and seven male cabinet members. Two departments that are critical for ISF programme are now headed by a woman: the Department of gender, youth, sports, culture and social services and the Department of agriculture, livestock and fisheries. Also in Kisii County, 3 out of 10 appointed Cabinet members are women. In 2022, Nyamira County (Department of Sports, Culture, Gender and Arts) signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with ISF Muungano Gender Forum to jointly strengthen the gender sector coordination groups. In Kisii County, a MoU remains yet to be signed.

Delayed rains and decrease in rainfall levels caused untimely planting, poor germination rates, high pest and disease infestation, stunted crop growth and crop loss. Heavy rains and hailstorms led to sweeping of crop stand, soil fertility loss and again high prevalence of pests and diseases. Poor soil fertility is a major problem in Nyamira (where all ISF current livelihood operations take place) and farmers have very little knowledge on soil management especially during the heavy rains. Furthermore, **high inflation** increased the price of productive inputs, particularly high cost of fuel, fertilisers and seeds negatively affected the production volumes of vegetables. The price of fertilisers increased by more than 70 percent and the farmers opted for planting with less fertilisers or with no fertilisers at all. Due to the inflation, the price of food dehydrator increased significantly from the budgeted amount and some project activities were cancelled after prioritising the purchase of the machines.

Kenya Demographic and Health Survey (KDHS) 2022 was published, including ISF programme relevant statistics on the situation of women in Kenya. 34% of women (27% of men) have experienced **physical violence** since age 15, including 16% of women who experienced physical violence often or sometimes in the 12 months before the survey. The most commonly reported perpetrator of physical violence among women who have ever been married or ever had an intimate partner was their current husband or intimate partner (54%), followed by a former husband/intimate partner (34%). 35,7% of women in Kisii and 33,3% of women in Nyamira have experienced physical violence since age 15; 19,7% of women in Kisii and 8,9% of women in

Nyamira often or sometimes in the 12 months before the survey (table 29C).

Nationally, 13% of women reported that they had experienced **sexual violence** at some point in their lives, 7% in the last 12 months. In Kisii, 16% of women have experienced sexual violence since age 15, 10,1 in the 12 months before the survey (table 29C). In Nyamira, respective percentages are 14,5% and 6,3% (table 31C). As with physical violence, the most commonly reported perpetrators of sexual violence among women who have ever been married or ever had an intimate partner were current husbands or intimate partners (71%) and former husbands or intimate partners (19%).

In terms of **FGM**, the 2022 KDHS survey only asked sampled men (aged 15–54) and women (aged 15–49) if they had ever heard of the practice. In addition, women were asked whether they had ever been cut. The results show that knowledge of FGM is almost universal (97%) among women and men in Kenya. In Kisii (100% of women and 99,3% of men) and Nyamira (98,9% of women and 98,5% of men), the percentage is even higher (table 33C). The national prevalence, in turn, has declined from 38% in 1998 to 15% in 2022. Since the latest KDHS (2014), the percentage of cut women who had undergone any flesh removal declined from 87% to 70%, while the percentage of cut women sewn closed increased from 9% to 12%. The KDHS 2022 report does not illuminate county specific FGM prevalence rates, but according to the 2014 DHS, it was 84% (clearly above the national average) in Kisii and Nyamira counties.

In 2022 Kisii County (Ministry of Health and Children's department), local FGM steering committee, and local CSOs implementing VAWG prevention programmes developed and adopted a **Child Protection Policy**. While both ISF target counties still struggle to approve Gender and FGM Policies, the existence of the Prohibition of Female Genital Mutilation Act (2011) played a big role during the anti-FGM sensitization. Local CSOs together with the national Anti FGM Board and the local Anti FGM steering committee launched a Youth Anti FGM Network Kisii chapter for the young people to be in the frontline and amplify their voices to end FGM.

Partners, projects and beneficiaries

In 2022, the ISF programme in Kenya included five projects, one of which was implemented by ISF directly, and the other four by local partners. (See table 2)

Table 3 summarises the people who directly participated in the ISF Kenya programme activities in 2022, by age, gender, and their 'role' or position within the community and/or project implementation. Altogether, **over 25,000 people** participated in ISF programme activities in Kenya in 2022, 5% of whom were girls, 58% women, 6% boys and 31% men.

In 2022, ISF Kenya programme made targeted efforts to enhance the opportunity of **people with disabilities (PwD)** to benefit from the programme. National Council of Persons

TABLE 2 | Projects in Kenya

Project name	Timeline	Partner organization	Area/region
Muongano Gender Forum	2018-	ISF implementation	Nyamira and Kisii counties
Improving BWCBO women farmer's livelihood resilience	2022-25	Bosinya Women's Community-based Organization (BWCBO)	Nyamira county
Shielding women and girls' rights	2023-26	Centre for Community Mobilisation and Empowerment (CECOME)	Kisii county
Promoting women and girls' prosperity	2023-26	Manga HEART	Nyamira county
Building capacities of NNWS women farmers for sustainable livelihoods	2022-25	Nyamira North Women Savings and Credit Cooperative (NNWS)	Nyamira county

TABLE 3 | Beneficiaries in Kenya

Direct beneficiaries reached in 2022	female minors	female adults	male minors	male adults	TOTAL	% female	people w disability
alternative rite of passage participants	193				193	100 %	3
community members	218	13 643	391	7 348	21 600	64 %	50
community volunteers		8		1	9	89 %	0
farmers		545		47	592	92 %	45
gender professionals		34		21	55	62 %	2
health professionals		18		13	31	58 %	1
livelihood peer advisers		19		1	20	95 %	0
livelihood professionals		70		51	121	58 %	6
male champions			600	73	673	0 %	4
officials		68		112	180	38 %	0
parents		237		38	275	86 %	3
religious leaders		12		32	44	27 %	1
school children	831		468		1 299	64 %	9
teachers		23		20	43	53 %	1
traditional leaders		27		48	75	36 %	2
women groups		90			90	100 %	2
youth		15		20	35	43 %	0
total direct beneficiar.	1 242	14 809	1 459	7 825	25 335	63 %	129

with Disabilities (NCPWD) and Nyamira Society of PwD trained the BWCBO project team and project volunteers in disability inclusion and mainstreaming. Both livelihood partners (BWCBO and NNWS) made a registration survey to map the number of PwD in their project areas. BWCBO prepared a disability inclusion strategy, which aims to lower the threshold for disabled women to participate in their activities. NNWS, in turn, provides special savings and loan services for PwD. The project trained 11 livelihood peer advisers in disability inclusion and 40 PwD were given training and regular advice on the production, post-harvest handling and bulking of the African indigenous vegetables. Also, the Muungano Gender Forum and the Disability Inclusion Committee in Nyamira organised an activity at Nyairicha Special School to advocate for the implementation of the National Disability Policy and to raise awareness on the importance of the registration of PwD.

ISF enhanced partners' **governance and occupational well-being** by providing training in social media and webpage content development, safety in the field visits and internal communication and conflict management. ISF helped BWCBO to draft several organizational policies, improved their online

presence and equipped their new office. The increased visibility spawned new cooperation with the County and other development programmes.

ISF partners and the Muungano Gender Forum designed a **facilitator and volunteer manual** to boost the VAWG awareness-raising among and through the project volunteers. The manual summarizes contextualized information on FGM and other forms of gender-based violence prevalent in the target area and unifies the messages to be delivered.

All ISF partners participated in **Kenya Innovation Week (KIW)** to showcase their work. The KIW provides a platform for building synergies between government, academia, companies, investors and the informal sector to encourage innovations. NNWS project manager participated in the **Futures Camp** workshop in Finland conducted by The Finnish Innovation Fund Sitra. He also visited Häme University of Applied Sciences research farm to discuss possibilities of Finnish students to conduct research in ISF project sites, and Helsinki University to map strategic partnership opportunities with Kenyan universities.



Photo: Browline Omondi

Outcome 2: Women and girls collectively claim their rights

After regular trainings and group discussions, women and girls in the project areas have become eager to discuss their rights openly. Girls were invited in both **school-related activities** (such as teacher and peer led club sessions and inter-school exchange activities) and **alternative rites of passage (ARP)** programme, which aims to replace FGM as a rite of passage. Close to 200 girls and 1300 schoolchildren participated in these activities in 2022 (see table 3). According to the annual monitoring data, ARP and school activity participants with knowledge and attitudes supportive of mitigating FGM increased significantly (see Annex /Kenya/Output 2.1). **Parents** to the ARP participants were also invited in sensitisation sessions and encouraged to reject FGM. Altogether 157 families made **public declarations to stop FGM** at the ARP graduation events (see Annex /Kenya/goal).

Awareness on the right to bodily integrity and the negative consequences of all forms of VAWG was also raised among various **women groups** attached to both the VAWG and livelihood projects. For example, to strengthen the **VAWG volunteers'** capacity in sensitizing women farmers the NNWS team provided them with refresher training on gender stereotypes, myths and misconceptions of VAWG, psychological support and referral systems for VAWG victims, and guidance on post-trauma counselling.

A Fingo-supported experiment set up a **toll-free number** to enhance reporting of VAWG cases, and engaged relevant stakeholders (paralegals, chiefs, media, religious leaders, police, health professionals, Gender department) to ensure victim sensitive response and to follow up the cases. In 2022, 6 cases (5 defilement, 1 partner violence) were reported from the CECOME project area, of which one proceeded to court. Manga Heart had 1 FGM case reported which went to court, NNWS had one rape and one defilement case, and BWCBO had 4 reported cases (2 defilement, 2 partner violence).

Increased reporting of VAWG cases to relevant authorities also emerged in the annual monitoring data among targeted women (see Annex/Kenya/Outcome 2). While increased reporting sometimes emerges as an increase in the prevalence rates, according to the annual monitoring data, there seems to be a decrease in the percentage of women who have experienced partner violence often or sometimes in past 12 months (see Annex/Kenya/goal).

Outcome 1: Judicial and moral duty bearers take actions to mitigate VAWG

ISF programme in Kenya has increased **religious and traditional leaders'** (such as chiefs, village elders and church leaders) movement against violence against women and girls (VAWG). They have been trained on how to argue against all types of FGM, and how to address religious and cultural arguments, myths and misconceptions that promote the practice. Also, the quarterly reporting and feedback sessions form an important platform for identifying how they best they can voice the rights of women and girls. According to the annual monitoring data, the percentage of targeted religious and traditional leaders with knowledge and attitudes supportive of ending FGM and partner violence increased significantly among both female and male leaders, and within both projects monitoring this change (see Annex/Kenya/Output 1.1).

Besides the monitoring data, positive change in duty bearers' attitudes was demonstrated through **community dialogues** that they organised to sensitise people on VAWG. Based on the community feedback, the duty bearers now better tolerate critique from the community and are thereby more accountable. This has built **trust and confidence** and removed obstacles from VAWG case reporting as well as open discussion between community members, chiefs and village elders. Same time, women in target communities have been sensitised on the negative effects of VAWG and encouraged to report, seek justice and support.

In collaboration with local administrators in both target counties—Kisii and Nyamira—the ISF-led Muungano Gender Forum (MGF) together with the partner led projects organised **weekly grassroots awareness raising forums**. More local government officers and local administrators attended the forums than the previous year, which in turn mobilised the community to attend in great numbers. MGF also partnered with a local court in Nyamira to educate the community about land and property rights, which is an emotive issue and often leads to violence. Additionally, the collaboration between the ISF partner NNWS and Magwagwa Division Office linked the VAWG volunteers

involved in the livelihood projects with the Assistant County Commissioner's (ACC) office to hasten the reporting of cases. The ACC provided the volunteers an opportunity to twice a week sensitise the community during the *barazas* (community meetings).

As a new group of change agents, **medical professionals and community health workers** were targeted. The former group is important as Kisii remains a hotspot for medicalisation—FGM performed by medical professionals to earn extra income, to meet the community demand and to save girls from botched cuttings. Although it is illegal to perform FGM in Kenya, many parents and professionals in Kisii think it is safer to have it done under hygienic conditions, by a trained medical person. Hence, medical professionals must be convinced of the illegality and harmfulness of the practice. Community health workers, in turn, regularly interact with survivors and know the impacts of FGM. Hence, they have competence and authority to advocate against the practice. Both groups were sensitised in 2022. Consequently, the percentage of sensitised medical/healthcare workers with knowledge and attitudes supportive of ending FGM and partner violence increased significantly within both projects monitoring this change (see Annex /Kenya/Output 1.1).

The trained health professionals were involved in community activities like **psycho-social counselling and dialogues** with community members and students on the adverse effects FGM and partner violence. The role of community healthcare workers is crucial as they know the families in their assigned areas and are seen as reliable sources of information in terms of, for example, malaria, deworming, vaccination, HIV. Many are members of income generating etc. community groups, making it even easier for them to raise awareness on more sensitive topics like VAWG, identify victims, offer counselling, and report to authorities (see Annex/Kenya/Outcome 1).



Photo: Browline Omondi



Photo: Open Hand Studios

Outcome 3: Women's sphere of influence has expanded

This outcome is **crosscutting** in the sense that there are few specific projects or project activities directly or explicitly pursuing it, while simultaneously most if not all ISF programme activities that feed into other outcomes do expand women's influence and power over their own bodies, incomes, family matters, community development etc.

Regarding women's expanding productive role, the enhanced cooperation among women farmers and strengthening of their member organisations has made them a **visible and integral part of the local agricultural business development**. The collective enterprises and their female members now increasingly cooperate with the Ministry of Agriculture in Nyamira, the Agriculture Training Centres and experts in various fields. Through their **umbrella organisations**, women have better opportunities to participate in decision-making that concerns them.

In 2022, the ISF-led Muungano Gender Forum (MGF) organised the first **Soko Freshi trade fair** where women's products were featured, and women met potential buyers, input sellers and finance institutions. As a result, the MGF partnered with The

Equity Foundation that provided **mentoring to expand women's businesses**. A link was also created with Nyankorora Banana Processors Ltd that buys bananas and banana fibre. The weekly MGF grassroots events (see *Outcome 1*) addressed, among other things, the cost of women's unpaid work, financial literacy and family budgeting, property and succession rights (including land).

Almost all (95%) of the women who responded to the annual survey reported that they have some **influence over major household decisions**, for example what to buy and sell (see *Annex/Kenya/Outcome 3*). Women's role in the household decision making has been strengthened as their businesses have become more profitable. Also, following participatory community-based grassroots sessions, men increasingly recognise the positive impact of women's income and the negative impact of VAWG on the family resilience and wellbeing. Indeed, the annual monitoring data indicates positive change in knowledge and attitudes supportive of abandoning FGM and partner violence (see *Annex/Kenya/output 3.1*).

Outcome 4: Women benefit from services and networks that support livelihood reform

The two ISF supported livelihood projects organised monthly field assessment and learning sessions between **women farmers, agriculture extension officers and other experts, which increased women's knowledge and skills in production and post-harvest handling of African Indigenous Vegetables (AIV)**. Rapid identification and reaction to farm-specific challenges increased women's motivation and created a firm link with the extension services. During the field visits, ISF partners monitored AIV production volumes and harvest times to ensure uninterrupted supply of vegetables to contract buyers.

The livelihood projects provided **expert trainings to 26 female peer advisers** who shared new knowledge and skills to other women. The projects published an **AIV production manual** which the peer advisers have tested and can use when advising others on AIV farming. As a result, the peer advisers have reached sufficient competence to advise other women on starting and developing spider plant and amaranth production. The project teams made **benchmarking visits to commercial farms and retailers** to explore opportunities for product diversification and collaboration and to gain new information and skills in vegetable production, processing, packaging and markets.

The NNWS cooperative continued developing **mushroom farming**. Women were trained in producing mushroom spawn, which reduced farming costs and ensured continuous spawn availability. NNWS collaborated with FAO, KALRO research institute, local Agriculture Training Centres and County Ministries in training farmers in **clean on-farm seed selection and multiplication**. The activity was a key in expanding the mushroom and AIV farming. The NNWS project distributed seeds, fertilisers and pesticides to 265 women farmers to expand the production of vegetables and mushrooms as well as to ease farmers' situation in the midst of economic crisis. BWCBO, in turn, trained 34 women on oyster mushroom farming and installed their first fully equipped mushroom hut in the organisation's land.

Furthermore, the projects opened **two aggregation and pre-processing centres in Nyamira** that were equipped with packing and food milling machines and food dehydrators. Near the centres, demo farms were equipped with **drip irrigation systems**. All the machinery and office spaces run on **solar energy**. After the opening of the centres, the FAO in Kenya donated a cooling container to NNWS. Also, NNWS facilitated SMS subscription that women farmers used for bulk SMS, which enhances the management of information flow to farmers. NNWS also arranged for 265 women farmers a collective **transport of their products** to aggregation and processing centre.

The projects trained farmers on AIV and mushroom **drying, deep freezing** of vegetables and **packaging**. The quick processing



Photo: Open Hand Studios

of the vegetables and mushrooms improved **food safety and nutritional value**, reduced post-harvest loss and extended the shelf life of the products. Improved food safety is the key in obtaining national food hygiene certificates that open doors to bigger markets. Both project teams continued **identifying new buyers** and the NNWS signed a new contract with Mace Foods Ltd for supply of amaranth. In addition, the partners gained useful contacts with potential buyers at the Soko Freshi trade fairs organized by MGF.

In light of the annual results monitoring, most women (71%) reported that they sold more AIVs than in 2021. Although the **sales figures** increased, NNWS's aggregation centre received less vegetables for processing than in 2021, which increased transport costs per unit, and the cooperative was not able to meet the contract farming quotas. Sales through the cooperative decreased by 50% (see *Annex/Kenya/Outcome 4*). Women sold their products in local markets and consumed more at home. On the other hand, the quality of the mushrooms has reached the level that NNWS started selling fresh and dried mushrooms to retailers. The current economic crisis was also reflected in women's saving capacity, e.g. NNWS members' **saving capacity** dropped and the families used significantly more money to non-food products than in 2021 (see *Annex/Kenya/Goal*).

Lastly, there was a notable increase in the number of **women practicing basic agri-business skills** such as keeping weekly expense and income records to support decision making. Women farmers increasingly follow up market prices: 77% of targeted women farmers in NNWS and 57% in BWCBO monitor prices on regular basis (see *Annex/Kenya/Output 4.2*).



Outcome 5: Improved capacity of farm systems to mitigate and adapt to climate change

The livelihood projects built women's capacities and cooperatives in production, post-harvest handling, processing and packaging of African indigenous vegetables (AIV) and mushrooms that can be farmed in small plots (vertical farming). Peer advisers (26 women) received further training in **climate resilient farming practices** such as crop rotation, minimum tillage, raised beds, vertical farming, shade nets, soil testing and optimal use of fertilisers and pesticides. Climate resilient and regenerative agriculture practices and technologies were also discussed during the monthly field visits. NNWS collaborated with KCIC-AgriBiz program, who shared information on conserving soil fertility and enhancing pest control. Nyamira County started sending out weekly WhatsApp **weather forecast updates** to targeted women farmers, which helped women to time the planting.

The use of **composted fertilisers** has become important especially in the farming of AIVs. The considerable increase in the fertiliser prices further increased interest and already 35 women produce composted fertilisers. ISF installed a **vermicomposting unit** at one demo farm and will continue boosting organic fertiliser production and selling in Nyamira.

Improved yields and food hygiene, longer shelf-life of products, composting and on-farm seed multiplication have increased women's **resilience capacity**. Despite the challenges they faced during the year, over half of the women reported that their AIV production volumes increased compared to 2021. For example, in the BWCBO project the increase was 73% and the women produced more than 180 000 kg of AIVs (see *Annex/Kenya/Outcome 5*).

The challenging year increased women's readiness for adopting regenerative and climate resilient agriculture practices, such as composting, on-farm seed selection, terraces, crop rotation, integrated pest management and irrigation. Still, many farmers do not have adequate knowledge and resources to apply technologies and methods that reduce the impact of hailstorms and prolonged dry seasons.

4. Programme performance in Somaliland

Operating environment

The elections scheduled for the end of the year caused political tension in Somaliland. The government and political opposition were locked in a **disagreement about the timing of the presidential poll and the vote to license parties** allowed to participate in Somaliland's politics for the next ten years. President Bihi and his Kulmiye party insisted that the party election occurs prior to the presidential poll, while the opposition parties Waddani and UCID wanted the presidential vote to be held first. Both sides appear to believe (and have different interests in the matter) that holding the presidential contest after the selection of new and potentially less experienced political parties augments the incumbent president's chances of staying in the office.

Rather than wait for the legislative process to complete enactment of a law that could overcome this challenge, the government pushed the process forward, opening the registration for new party licenses in June. This angered the opposition and served as a catalyst for the **August protests** where several people were killed and dozens wounded when the police opened fire on protesters. The International Crisis Group (ICG) think tank urged Somaliland's international partners to play an active role to resolve the crisis. The situation normalised at the end of the year, and President Bihi's term of office was extended to 2024 by the *Guurti* (a non-elected gathering of elders drawn from traditional tribes that also constitutes the upper house of the parliament). The registration of voters started in December and the *Guurti* voted to postpone the election by two years, effectively scheduled for November 2024.

Somaliland is experiencing its **worst drought in 40 years** that has caused massive displacement, localised famine, epidemic disease outbreaks and malnutrition. The country is in the midst of its **fifth consecutive failed rainy season**. Rains between October and December 2022 were slightly better but still 25-55 % below average across most parts of Somalia. Crop and pasture prospects for the January 2023 harvest remained grim. People were forced to make difficult choices, such as skip meals, marry off daughters, or sell their own bodies to get enough money to survive. Children are also more susceptible to common diseases as their bodies are weakened from a lack of nutrition. In the midst of the drought, **dengue fever** affected thousands of people, disturbed livelihoods, increased morbidity and mortality, and overwhelmed Somaliland's Ministry of Health.

Somaliland faced a **high inflation rate** due to food shortages caused by drought. The production and supply chain impact of the war in Ukraine put further upward pressure on food prices, thereby threatening to drive the country to the brink of a famine. High cost of fuel and fertilisers affected domestic food production negatively. The rising costs of food, water and feed for livestock, as well as migration to distant areas in

search of pasture and water have burdened indebted families. Households cannot even sell their livestock to overcome the crisis as animals are dying or are in an unsaleable condition.

The situation is especially hard for the **internally displaced people** (IDP). The increase in price for goods and services has had a strong impact particularly on IDPs who work in construction and petty trading, including women's self-help group members. The high unemployment rate further increased, leaving many uncertain about their financial futures. Moreover, following the COVID-19 pandemic, the debt levels of small business and several small enterprises have increased, and many have had to close their businesses.

This **multi-crisis situation** affected project planning and implementation. It is difficult to conduct project planning when people desperately need water and food. Due to the livestock migration and community movements, people did not stay in their villages, which reduced the total number of people participating in project planning and baseline data collection as well as project activity launching.

There has been an increase in the number of reported **rape cases** in Somaliland. During January-July 2022, 286 cases were reported (232 cases in Jan-July 2021). This may be attributable to increased reporting, improved recordkeeping and police investigation. However, perpetrators are rarely held accountable due to the absence of sufficient legislation. A group of local and regional women's rights organizations (such as Voice of Somali Minority Women Organization, NAGAAD Network, SIHA Network) made a public appeal, calling for the government to approve the **Sexual Offences Bill**, adopted by the Council of Ministers in 2018, but now threatened to be replaced by the **Sexual Intercourse Bill**, which, according to the women's rights organizations, violates women and girls' human rights by, for instance, normalizing violence against them.

In February, the Somaliland parliament approved the **first ever Children's Act**, which criminalises all forms of violence, abuse, and neglect of children, including (even if not explicitly mentioning) FGM. The Act aims to safeguard children's rights aligned with the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and makes guardians and the state responsible for children's wellbeing. Coordinated by ISF partner Network Against FGM in Somaliland (NAFIS), local CSOs have been pressing for the passage of , based on zero tolerance of all types of female cutting. They had multiple meetings with the Ministry of Social Affairs and Family (MESAF) and other key ministries to boost the process. The final policy draft is currently pending presidential decree, and the bill will be debated in ministerial meetings, before submitting it to the Parliament for passing.

TABLE 4 | Projects in Somaliland

Project name	Timeline	Partner organization	Area/region
Community-driven FGM abandonment and women empowerment	2020-22	Network against FGM in Somaliland (NAFIS) and Candlelight for Environment, Education and Health (Candlelight)	all regions
Prevention of VAWG/FGM through improved economic status of vulnerable women (2020-22)	2020-22	Taakulo Somaliland Community (Taakulo)	Togdheer region
Improving women's livelihood and strengthening agropastoralists' capacity to adapt to climate change	2022-25	Agriculture Development Organization (ADO)	Togdheer and Sanaag regions
Entrenching community mechanisms to mitigate VAWG/FGM	2022-25	Somaliland Youth Development and Voluntary Organization (SOYDAVO)	Togdheer and Sanaag regions
Zero tolerance to all forms of FGM and VAWG	2022-25	Somaliland Youth PEER Education Network (YPEER)	Togdheer and Sanaag regions
Reducing all forms of VAWG	2022-25	Barwaaqo Voluntary Organization (BVO)	Togdheer region

TABLE 5 | Beneficiaries in Somaliland

Direct beneficiaries reached in 2022	female minors	female adults	male minors	male adults	TOTAL	% female	people w disability
community volunteers	5	15	8	12	40	50 %	0
farmers		345		361	706	49 %	43
gender professionals		43		17	60	72 %	0
media professionals		24		11	35	69 %	0
officials		143		87	230	62 %	0
parents		85		85	170	50 %	3
religious leaders		10		170	180	6 %	1
school children	125		30		155	81 %	0
traditional leaders		120		280	400	30 %	2
women groups		2 461		364	2 825	87 %	4
youth		314		202	516	61 %	0
total direct beneficiary.	130	3 560	38	1 589	5 317	69 %	53

Partners, projects and beneficiaries

In 2022, the ISF programme in Somaliland included **six projects** implemented by local partners, of whom YPEER and BVO are new partners (since 2022) and the others are ISF long term partners. The joint NAFIS-Candlelight project and the Taakulo project came to an end in 2022. With NAFIS, ISF initiated a planning phase for a new 2023-25 project in December.

Table 5 summarises the people who directly participated in ISF Somaliland programme activities in 2022, by age, gender, and their 'role' or position within the community and/or project implementation. Altogether, **over 5,000 people** participated in ISF programme activities in Somaliland in 2022, 2,5% of whom where girls, 67% women; 0,5% boys and 30% men.

While all except one of the ISF supported partners had direct **beneficiaries with disabilities**, only 2/6 partners were trained on disability inclusion, and 3/6 had specific plans to promote participation of PwD. The ADO project had most PwD as direct beneficiaries: 43 farmers with disabilities directly benefited from the improvements in the farming system, e.g. access to water and seeds. Systematic training of ISF Somaliland partners on disability inclusion was postponed several times mainly due to COVID-19 pandemic and will be organized in 2023.

In 2022, ISF improved the capacity of its partners in ethical and safety guidelines for addressing VAWG; in monitoring data collection with OMBEA devices; and in using Microsoft Teams as a shared grant management system and communications platform between ISF and the partners.

Outcome 1: Judicial and moral duty bearers take actions to mitigate VAWG

To ensure positive change in deeply embedded norms, it is essential to understand the beliefs and community enforcement mechanisms that underpin the continuation of FGM, as well as to involve gatekeepers who are trusted by the local community. Hence, ISF and its partners implemented a capacity-building initiatives to enhance duty bearers' knowledge of violence against women and girls (VAWG). **Religious and traditional leaders**, who are seen as custodians of culture and religion in Somaliland, were trained on the negative health effects, legal repercussions and Islamic standpoints on FGM and mobilized to advocate against all forms of VAWG. Project teams encouraged religious leaders to take a unified zero tolerance stand on FGM, including the milder so-called Sunni type, which many religious leaders believe is mandatory and promote in religious gatherings.

Two 3-year (2020–22) end-FGM projects came to end in 2022 in Somaliland. Due to their different time span from the majority of the 2022–25 projects, their results are not included in the ISF 2022–25 programme results matrix (annex), but many of them closely relate to ISF 2022–25 programme outcomes. The Taakulo-led project mainstreamed FGM awareness raising into SHG women's livelihood support and revived the coordination platforms where civil society and local government actors can tackle FGM and VAWG challenges together. Sensitization and **collaboration between religious and traditional leaders** had positive effect on their FGM attitudes: at the baseline, 38% of the targeted traditional leaders and 48% of the targeted traditional leaders thought that Islam mandates no type of FGM, while the endline level reached 53% and 98% respectively. Similarly, the percentage who believe that women have right to bodily integrity increased from 51% to 94% among traditional leaders and doubled from 50% to 100% among religious leaders. Simultaneously, however, the share of those who think that all types of FGM (including the Sunna) have negative health effects decreased among both groups.

Another 2020–22 FGM abandonment and women empowerment project implemented by NAFIS and Candlelight trained close to **700 local CSO people, 150 religious and 242 traditional leaders, 155 journalists, and 300 university students** on the health risks, Islamic and human rights perspectives to FGM. Consequently, 144 (baseline 74) local CSOs now participate in **regional and/or national anti-FGM coordination meetings** and advocate for zero tolerance of all forms of FGM. Sensitised religious leaders actively address FGM during Friday prayers (over 1000 speeches during the last 6 months only), and altogether 68 Community Management Committees and women's Cluster Associations made **collective declaration to abandon FGM** during the project. Targeted journalists produced 64 **media coverage**, and trained university students produced hundreds of peer sessions and tens of **academic articles** addressing FGM in Somaliland.

A lesson learnt and verified by the final evaluation of the NAFIS-Candlelight project is that long-term, **grassroots community level empowerment which builds upon existing structures** (like Community Management Committees) and engages local traditional and religious leaders—and at best has **community focal points** (like the Community Facilitators in the rural target villages, or female Ambassadors in IDP communities)—give solid ground for sustainable anti-FGM interventions. The below case story shared by an SHG member exemplifies the role of the female Ambassadors:



Photo: Maria Väkiparta

In one of the women's self-help group awareness-raising sessions on FGM, a mother attended who was planning to circumcise her two daughters during the school holidays. In the meeting, she heard about all the health complications and that the practice is not based on Islam but is instead a human rights violation. She decided not to circumcise her daughters.

However, some days later, the father came home and gave her money to circumcise the daughters as planned. The mother explained that she had changed her mind due to what she heard in the SHG group meeting. The father also then wanted to visit the house of the Ambassador (higher representative of the SHGs), who explained him the health complication and Islamic perspectives and shared the handbook developed by the project.

The father agreed not to circumcise his daughters and requested the Ambassadors to communicate with him if they needed any support to convince those who still support FGM. The father was invited to speak in the traditional leaders' training in May and is currently an active member in the anti-FGM campaigns in his village.

Other projects within the 2022–25 Somaliland programme were mainly in the planning phase in 2022. According to the baseline data collected late-2022, percentage of male religious & traditional leaders with knowledge/attitudes to mitigate FGM was between 25–44% (3 projects), and to mitigate other forms of VAWG between 52–69% (see Annex/Somaliland/Output 1.1). Similarly, percentage of female medical/healthcare workers (involved in the YPEER project) with knowledge/attitudes to mitigate FGM was 35%, and to mitigate other forms of VAWG 66% (see Annex/Somaliland/Output 1.1). While **health and social workers** play an important role in the eradication of FGM, significant proportion of them lack the knowledge and attitudes necessary to mitigate FGM in Somaliland. Hence, ISF 2022–25 programme addresses the need for more education and awareness-raising, resources and support from colleagues and supervisors so that health and social workers, too, can play an effective role in preventing FGM.



Photo: Maria Väkiparta

Outcome 2: Women and girls collectively claim their rights

ISF empowers women and girls by educating them on the harmful effects of FGM and other forms of VAWG, as well as their legal and human rights to bodily integrity. In urban areas of Somaliland, ISF and partners mostly work with and via **women's self-help groups (SHG)**—robust networks that engage women in peer support, income generation, capacity building and awareness raising.

For example, during its 3 years (2020–22) of implementation, the NAFIS-Candlelight project trained altogether almost 2000 'upper-level' SHG (Cluster Level Association, CLA) women to raise awareness on women's rights within SHGs. SHG women's awareness of VAWG and capacity to claim their rights increased from 84% at baseline to 99% at endline. During the project, 87 new **advocacy plans** to enhance SHG women's bodily integrity were drafted, led by female Human Rights Ambassadors trained and mobilised from among the CLA women. The final evaluation concluded that **female change agents**, such as the Human Rights Ambassadors, have "competitive edge" in convincing other women to reject FGM by publicly announcing that they are no longer circumcising their own daughters.

The new Soydavo-led project continued supporting a model which was identified as influential after the 2018–21 programme: **local anti-FGM committees** consisting of women and men. Each

target community has a ten-member committee, who selects a chairperson to organise the committee's monthly meetings and to report on violations that accrue in their villages. The committees received capacity-building training to strengthen their knowledge and ability to do their job efficiently.

As a new component to ISF Somaliland programme, **girl clubs** were established in rural villages or IDP communities. The clubs aim to empower young women to speak out against VAWG, including reporting and peer-to-peer dialogues that utilizes social media and WhatsApp. In 2022, the SOYDAVO project team conducted two campaigns with the girls' club members, calling for community action, advocacy, and opportunities for discussing challenges and solutions. The Y-Peer project team, in turn, produced **FGM-related articles** on Baaq youth magazine and a **child-friendly booklet** on the rights of women and girls in Islam, with vivid pictures and religious scripts.

According to the baseline data collected within the new projects, 49% of targeted SHG women had knowledge to question the continuation of FGM and 68% had such knowledge on intimate partner violence. 40% of targeted schoolgirls and 36% of boys had knowledge on FGM, while 76% of girls and 58% of boys had critical knowledge on early marriage (see Annex/Somaliland/Output 2.1).

Outcome 3: Women's sphere of influence has expanded

This outcome is crosscutting in the sense that there are few specific projects or project activities directly or explicitly pursuing it, while simultaneously most if not all ISF programme activities that feed into other outcomes do expand women's influence and power over their own bodies, incomes, family matters, community development etc.

As stated in Outcome 2 (see also Outcome 4), ISF and partners work with and via women's self-help groups (SHG), both to promote women's bodily integrity and to support their sustainable livelihoods. Regarding the latter objective, in 2022, ADO and Taakulo led projects enhanced **women's basic business skills**, increased their access to finance and other assets and raised awareness on women's rights within 12 self-help groups (with approximately 20 women in each). In these groups, women support each other and influence decision-making in cooperatives and community level, which boost their self-confidence and self-efficacy. SHGs, particularly the "upper level" cluster level associations also **participate in the local governance discussions**, challenging the rigid gender norms that restrict women's role in the public sphere.

To mitigate the risk of backlash and violence against women which may increase when women earn own income, raise their voice and claim their rights, ISF programme addresses men in the communities where women's livelihoods are supported. In 2022, the partners trained men and boys about the consequences of VAWG, after which some trained **men, women and youth were nominated as role models** who advocate for the rights of women and girls in their communities. They also provide support to survivors of FGM and other forms of VAWG, and work to create a safe and supportive environment for all community members.

In terms of quantitative results related to outcome 3 (see *Annex/Output 3.1/Women and men have attitudes supportive of women's rights*), both projects that ended in 2022 contributed to expected change. Within the NAFIS-Candlelight project, the endline monitoring data shows increased awareness of FGM related risks and willingness to reject the practice among the parents: After the project, not only pharaonic but also the milder so called sunnah cutting was widely rejected among the targeted parents: proportion of **parents who aim to leave their daughters uncut** increased from 32% to 83%, proportion of parents planning sunnah cutting decreased from 62% to 17%, and proportion of parents still supporting pharaonic cutting decreased from 5% to 1%. Within the Taakulo led project, too, the percentage of parents aiming to leave their daughters uncut



Photo: Maria Vikiiparta

rose from 14% to 32%.

A lesson learnt regarding the Ombea audio response tool (introduced at ISF in 2020 and since 2022 extensively used for all survey-type data collection) is that despite the anonymity provided by the tool and the triangulation through indexed multi-question indicators, participants tend to provide socially desirable answers particularly concerning sensitive topics like FGM. In the NAFIS-Candlelight project, for example, baseline values seemed almost 'too good' and endline results even better—showing close to 100% awareness of FGM health risks among all groups and at all indicators. Hence, such results must be interpreted with caution, and survey data complemented with qualitative data that digs deeper in the survey findings, trends and mechanisms behind the progress/setback.

Within the projects where only baselines were collected in 2022, the share of targeted people with **knowledge and attitudes supportive of abandoning FGM** varied between 38–45% among women and between 28–33% among men, while the share of targeted people with **knowledge and attitudes supportive of abandoning partner violence** varied between 64–86% among women and between 49–78% among men (3 project variation, see *Annex/Somaliland/output 3.1*). As usual, behavioural aims among the three projects' beneficiaries lagged behind knowledge and attitudes: 25–31% of women and 19–30% of men had and/or were **willing to reject FGM** (see *Annex/Somaliland/goal*).

Outcome 4: Women benefit from services and networks that support livelihood reform

Together with ADO, ISF launched a new agricultural development project that targets communities in Burao and Erigavo. The project formed seven new **self-help groups (SHG)** that provide simple savings and loan services to women and a platform where women are trained, their access to information and services is improved, and contacts with commercial actors are established. In 2022, the ISF supported project trained 140 SHG women in SHG management, including savings and loan management. Also, the project develops **alternative forms of livelihood**, mainly vegetable and poultry farming and apiculture. During the first six months, these seven SHGs had saved more than 1600 euros to be invested in their businesses (see *Annex/Somaliland/Goal*). By saving together, women can build up a pool of capital that can be used as collateral for bigger loans. This helps to mitigate the risks associated with lending and makes it easier to access finance to start or grow businesses.

Aligned with ISF programmatic approach to mainstream VAWG awareness raising in livelihood support and vice versa (see [2022-25 programme](#) chapter 4.3), two projects focusing on VAWG prevention (led by Soydavo and BVO) trained women in tailoring and basic business skills. The project teams did a **small-scale market survey** on the possibility of tailoring and selling washable ecological menstrual pads in Somaliland.

The 3-year Taakulo-led project that mainstreamed FGM awareness raising into SHG women's livelihood support, came to an end in 2022. The project supported the livelihood of 100 women in five self-help groups (SHG), mostly petty traders in IDP sites. According to the final evaluation of the project, women's **average earnings grew steadily** during the project, from an average of \$155/month in 2020 to \$295/month in 2022. Part of the increase is due to high inflation rate, but the women also told several examples of how new knowledge and skills helped them to cope with the numerous crises during the project time. The key things that helped women succeed were women's organisation and cooperation, bookkeeping skills, and increased information on market prices, as the citations below indicate.

We learnt bookkeeping, marketing, customer care and looking for investment opportunities. Bookkeeping was the most beneficial to me as I didn't know how to calculate profit and loss and how to set price. The training courses also helped us to monitor the market prices because the prices change every day. We talk to our vendors three or four times a day to ask them about the change in prices.

(a self-help group member who participated in ISF supported trainings)

In our meetings we share how the market has changed, we encourage each other to be vigilant on this as it can have relevance to the businesses. We share ideas on new business opportunities like brining other complementary goods or services into the business. We also share information on new investment opportunities. Recently Amal Bank, provided investment opportunity for the SHG members in Buroa and 20 members in our group utilised this opportunity. Each business was given a \$300 as an investment.

(a self-help group member who participated in ISF supported trainings)

The baseline study of the project indicated that most of the selected SHG beneficiaries had participated in some level of marketing and business planning training before the project. It seems that in projects that add a livelihood component into VAWG prevention, it is a good strategy to direct the livelihood activities to women who already are entrepreneurs and have some basic business skills, whereby the livelihood component can focus in improving already existing business and entrepreneurial skills.



Photo: Siru Aura

Outcome 5: Improved capacity of farm systems to mitigate and adapt to climate change

In 2022, ISF had one climate resilience project running in Somaliland, in four villages in Erigavo and Burao districts. During the first six months of the project, this ADO-led project improved farmers' and agropastoralists' **access to water and protected the soil from flood erosion**. The project constructed or rehabilitated about 6,5 km of water canals and repaired three *berkads* (water reservoirs made of concrete) which collect rainwater for animals and crops. The construction of irrigation canals helped minimise water loss and ensured a more efficient distribution of water. According to ADO, the construction of irrigation canals has reduced water loss by up to 90% for far-end farms.

The project contributed 200 galvanised gabion boxes to one village to conserve the soil from flood erosion, especially formation of the gullies. These investments were the first step in the planning and implementation of **village-level Natural Resources Management and Disaster Risk Reduction** plan that are coordinated by Climate Adaptive Village (CAV) associations.

In addition, the project built the first **greenhouse prototype** which would withstand the harsh weather conditions of Somaliland, especially wind, torrential rains, and extreme heat. There are no durable greenhouses for sale in the country and the project aims to develop a greenhouse that farmers can build themselves using locally available materials. The project is testing the functionality of the greenhouse for growing vegetables and fruits in the current growing season.

Access to quality seeds was one of the major challenges that the communities identified in the planning phase, thereby, the project developed women's and men's capacities in **on-farm seed selection and in building sustainable local seed markets**. The project distributed certified seeds (vegetables, fruits and oil plants) to 50 women and 125 men farmers for planting and multiplication, and to improve crop security. Crop security is a state in which crops are diverse enough, nutritious enough, and plentiful enough to feed people and maintain health.

Also, the project mapped opportunities for cooperation with **Sanaag University and Burao University**, in order to identify ways how the local students could grasp theoretical and practical experience from the project.

Photo: Nyasha Kadandara



5. Communications and private fundraising

In 2022, the main themes in ISF communications and fundraising targeted for Finnish audience were women and girls' rights in Kenya and Somaliland, especially focusing on the bodily integrity and covering topics such as VAWG and FGM, the importance of women's livelihood and the multiple crisis in East Africa region including climate crisis, draught and the threat of famine, and post-covid circumstances.

Main communications channels used were the ISF social media platforms, Facebook, Instagram and TikTok, ISF website and newsletter. Considerable growth and new audiences were reached in TikTok, where ISF focuses on spreading information on its main themes. Besides the owned media, both earned and paid media played their role in reaching new audiences. In 2022, systematic cooperation with Finnish social media influencers was being piloted with promising results. Through ISF's 'social media first' approach new Finnish audiences in ISF selected target audience segments were being engaged in development cooperation work and their knowledge base on women and girls' rights, VAWG and FGM in East Africa region was increased.

Throughout the year, five major campaigns for the Finnish audience were carried out with communications, marketing, and direct fundraising goals. Especially the #EiKuuluSulle (bodily autonomy) campaign on International Day of the Girl Child showed good results both in fundraising but also in the participation and engagement of different target audiences.

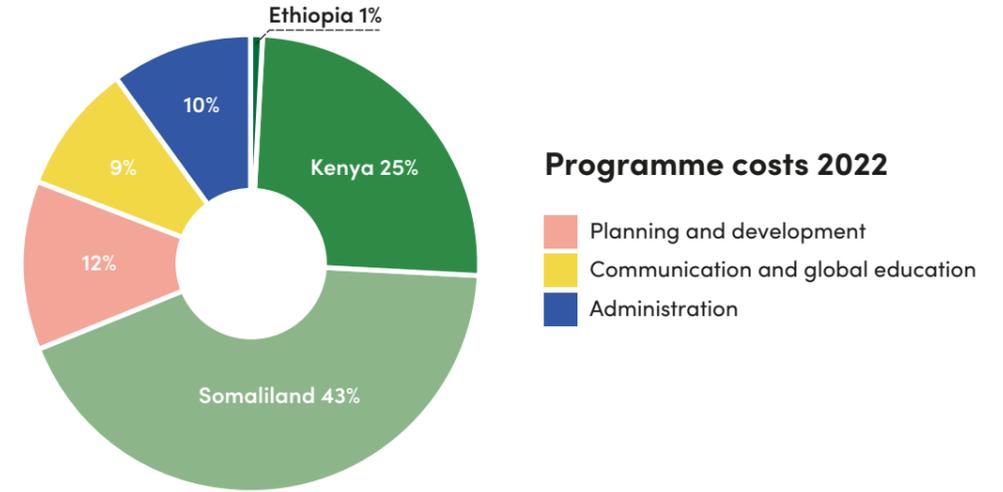
Fundraising climate for ISF's themes changed dramatically in early 2022 due to war in Ukraine and later in the year economic forecasts in Finland. This was reflected in campaign results and conversion performance. However monthly donor commitment remained on excellent level. Marketing and brand awareness goals were tackled by distinctive, graphic out-of-home advertising, partnerships with social media influencers as well as traditional media advertising, e.g. radio collaboration and newspapers. ISF used a vendor for F2F fundraising in 2022 and concentrated on lead funnel optimising, telemarketing and digital donor acquisition models as well as campaign processes.



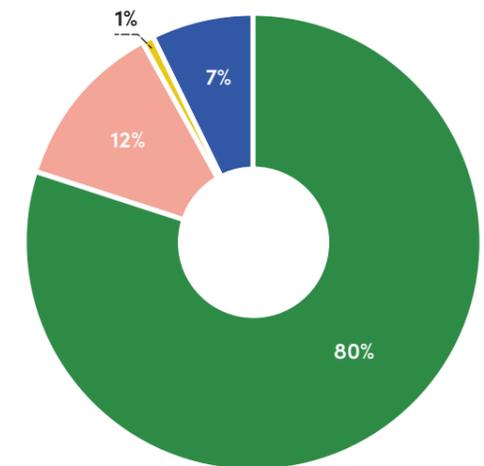
Photo: Nyasha Kadandara

6. Programme costs and funding

The total costs of the programme in 2022 were 3 134 644 €. Costs were divided by countries and actions as shown in the picture below.



Programme aid granted by the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland covered 80% of the costs, 12% was covered by the UN Trust Fund to End Violence against Women, 7% by private fundraising and 1% by foundations or other sources.



RESULTS MATRIX	INDICATORS	MEANS OF VERIFICATION ETC.	PROJECTS WITH THE INDICATOR	BASELINE JAN-2022		FOLLOW-UP DEC-2022	
				female	male	female	male
GOAL: Women and girls' bodily integrity and livelihood resilience has strengthened in ISF programme areas	% of targeted parents who have and/or are willing to reject FGM (behavioral aims)	Annual standard poll using OMBEA digital audio response system, inhouse by ISF and partners.	CECOME	87 %	85 %	70 %	67 %
			Manga Heart	74 %	65 %	71 %	62 %
	Public declarations to abandon FGM (Kenia/family commitments, Somaliland/relig. leader commitments)	Project monitoring reports	CECOME	n.a.		93	
			Manga Heart	n.a.		64	
	% of targeted women who have experienced partner violence often or sometimes in past 12 months	Annual standard poll using OMBEA digital audio response system, inhouse by ISF and partners.	CECOME	78 %	-	32 %	-
			Manga Heart	45 %	-	53 %	-
			BWCBO	n.a.	-	32 %	-
			NNWS	n.a.	-	41 %	-
	Positive change in targeted women's and men's resilience response to shocks and stressors	Midterm/endline individual interviews and self-reporting on resilience response and the most significant reasons for positive adaptation, inhouse and/or by external consultant.	BWCBO	n.a.		n.a.	
			NNWS	n.a.		n.a.	
	Positive change in targeted women's and men's savings capacity	SHG registers + midterm/endline standard poll using OMBEA digital audio response system, inhouse by ISF and partners	BWCBO	34 %	-	n.a.	-
			NNWS	16 %	-	n.a.	-
Positive change in targeted women's and men's resilience response to shocks and stressors	Midterm/endline individual interviews and self-reporting on resilience response and the most significant reasons for positive adaptation, inhouse and/or by external consultant.	NNWS and BWCBO	n.a.	-	n.a.	-	
Positive change in targeted women's and men's savings capacity	SHG registers + midterm/endline standard poll using OMBEA digital audio response system, inhouse by ISF and partners	BWCBO	16 %	-	35 %	-	
		NNWS	80 %	-	28 %	-	
Positive change in targeted women's self-efficacy	Ombea poll (5 question average) and midterm/endline individual interviews/ FGDs, aligned with General Self-Efficacy Scale	BWCBO	79 %	-	53 %	-	
		NNWS	71 %	-	55 %	-	
OUTCOME 1: Judicial and moral duty bearers take actions to mitigate VAWG	Laws, standard operating procedures, and action plans on VAWG mitigation prepared by government actors in past 12 months	Project monitoring reports	Muongano	n.a.		narrative report	
	Perceptions of community members in target communities on the engagement of duty bearers in mitigating VAWG	Annual FGDs, inhouse by partners 82 households	CECOME	n.a.		narrative report	
Output 1.1.: Judicial and moral duty bearers have knowledge and attitudes to mitigate VAWG	% of targeted religious & traditional leaders with knowledge/attitudes to mitigate FGM	Annual standard poll using OMBEA digital audio response system, inhouse by ISF and partners.	CECOME	76 %	64 %	90 %	86 %
			Manga Heart	59 %	54 %	92 %	88 %
	% of targeted religious & traditional leaders with knowledge/attitudes to mitigate other forms of VAWG	Annual standard poll using OMBEA digital audio response system, inhouse by ISF and partners.	CECOME	58 %	42 %	83 %	90 %
			Manga Heart	75 %	63 %	89 %	83 %
	% of targeted medical/healthcare workers with knowledge/attitudes to mitigate FGM	Annual standard poll using OMBEA digital audio response system, inhouse by ISF and partners.	CECOME	81 %	76 %	91 %	100 %
			Manga Heart	56 %	70 %	96 %	86 %
% of targeted medical/healthcare workers with knowledge/attitudes to mitigating other forms of VAWG	Annual standard poll using OMBEA digital audio response system, inhouse by ISF and partners.	CECOME	76 %	76 %	92 %	94 %	
		Manga Heart	89 %	77 %	100 %	98 %	
OUTCOME 2: Women and girls collectively claim their rights	% of targeted women who have reported to relevant authorities if they have experienced violence in past 12 months	Annual standard poll using OMBEA digital audio response system, inhouse by ISF and partners.	CECOME	0 %	-	29 %	-
			Manga Heart	11 %	-	26 %	-
			BWCBO	n.a.	-	23 %	-
			NNWS	19 %	-	30 %	-
Output 2.1: Women and girls have knowledge and means to collectively claim their rights	% of female who participate in some ISF-supported platforms/forums and have knowledge on right to bodily integrity and VAWG survivor services	Annual standard poll using OMBEA digital audio response system, inhouse by ISF and partners.	CECOME school	52 %	59 %	77 %	69 %
			CECOME ARP	59 %	-	82 %	-
			Manga school	60 %	57 %	84 %	86 %
			Manga ARP	54 %	-	86 %	-
OUTCOME 3: Women's sphere of influence has expanded	Perceptions of women on their opportunities to generate income and affect family decisions (e.g. expenditure)	Individual interviews + FGDs, questions aligned with DHS Kenya/participation in household decision, inhouse by partners	CECOME	n.a.		narrative report	
			BWCBO	89 %	-	95 %	-
			NNWS	96 %	-	95 %	-
Output 3.1: Women and men have attitudes supportive of women's rights	% of targeted wo/men with knowledge and attitudes supportive of abandoning FGM	Annual standard poll using OMBEA digital audio response system, inhouse by ISF and partners.	CECOME	63 %	56 %	89 %	91 %
			Manga Heart	51 %	44 %	93 %	89 %
	% of targeted wo/men with attitudes supportive of abandoning partner violence	Annual standard poll using OMBEA digital audio response system, inhouse by ISF and partners.	CECOME	62 %	69 %	93 %	93 %
			Manga Heart	65 %	65 %	90 %	84 %
			BWCBO	n.a.	n.a.	86 %	-
			NNWS	n.a.	n.a.	97 %	-

RESULTS MATRIX	INDICATORS	MEANS OF VERIFICATION ETC.	PROJECTS WITH THE INDICATOR	BASELINE JAN-2022		FOLLOW-UP DEC-2022	
				female	male	female	male
OUTCOME 4: Women benefit from services and networks that support livelihood reform	Yearly value of gross sales in selected value chains	Beneficiaries' and cooperative records and/or annual survey with face-to-face interviews, inhouse by ISF and partners	BWCBO	AIVs KES 3,2M; mushrooms KES 0		No value, 100% report increase in farm sale value (AIV)	
			NNWS	AIVs KES 944200; mushrooms KES 0		AIVs KES 472165 mushrooms KES 44050	
			CECOME and Manga Heart	n.a.	-	n.a.	-
	% of targeted women and men who have permanent access to professional development and innovation services	Midterm/endline survey with face-to-face interviews and key informant interviews, by external consultant	BWCBO	0 %	-	39 %	-
			NNWS	0 %	-	n.a.	-
	Output 4.1: Women have improved access to skills development and innovation services	Nr of peer advisers who give training and advice	Project monitoring reports, partner records	CECOME	9	0	9
Manga Heart				8	2	10	1
% of targeted women applying new business or vocational skills to generate income		Midterm/endline individual interviews, by external consultant	CECOME	n.a.	-	n.a.	-
			Manga Heart	n.a.	-	n.a.	-
Output 4.2: Women have improved access to finance and markets	Nr of targeted women and men using savings and loan services in past 12 months	Cooperative and SHG registers	BWCBO	240	-	270	-
			NNWS	300	-	265 (100%)	-
	% of direct beneficiaries whose access to productive inputs is improved (seed/fertilizer/pesticide)	Registers and annual standard poll using OMBEA digital audio response system, inhouse by ISF and partners	BWCBO	20 %	-	20 %	-
			NNWS	52 %	-	66 %	-
	% of women and men who have used market price information services in past 12 months	Annual standard poll using OMBEA digital audio response system, inhouse by ISF and partners.	BWCBO	39 %	-	57 %	-
			NNWS	65 %	-	77 %	-
OUTCOME 5: Improved capacity of farm systems to mitigate and adapt to climate change	Production volumes of selected crops	Interviews with farmers and cooperative staff, registers, inhouse by ISF and partners.	BWCBO	AIVs 108 000 kg, mushroom 0 kg		AIVs 187235 kg, mushroom 37 kg	
			NNWS	AIVs 18,884 kg, mushroom 0 kg		AIVs 9532 kg, mushroom 672 kg	
	% of agricultural and grazing land in target area affected by soil erosion	Photo/video using drones, inhouse by ISF and partners.	NNWS	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
	% of increase in productivity of crops and livestock production	Interviews with farmers and cooperative staff, registers, inhouse by ISF and partners.	BWCBO	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Output 5.1: Women and men apply climate smart technologies and practices	% of beneficiaries that have water for agropastoral purposes during all months in the past year	Registers, household and individual interviews, inhouse by ISF and partners and verified in final evaluation by external consultant	BWCBO	n.a.		n.a.	
			NNWS	n.a.		n.a.	
	Size of areas (ha) using soil conservation methods as a result of ISF programme	Observation, registers, FGDs, annually inhouse by ISF and partners and verified in final evaluation by external consultant	NNWS	12ha		11ha	
	% of targeted farmers who use weather and climate information services in past 12 months	Annual standard poll using OMBEA digital audio response system, inhouse by ISF and partners: % use often	BWCBO	47 %	-	57 %	-

RESULTS MATRIX	INDICATORS	MEANS OF VERIFICATION ETC.	PROJECTS WITH THE INDICATOR	BASELINE JAN-2022	
				female	male
GOAL: Women and girls' bodily integrity and livelihood resilience has strengthened in ISF programme areas	% of targeted parents who have and/or are willing to reject FGM (behavioral aims)	Annual standard poll using OMBEA digital audio response system, inhouse by ISF and partners.	SOYDAVO	31 %	19 %
			BVO	27 %	25 %
			YPEER	25 %	30 %
			NAFIS (2023-25)	n.a.	n.a.
	Public declarations to abandon FGM (Kenia/family commitments, Somaliland/relig. leader commitments)	Project monitoring reports	SOYDAVO	n.a.	
			BVO	n.a.	
			YPEER	n.a.	
			NAFIS (2023-25)	n.a.	
% of targeted women who have experienced partner violence often or sometimes in past 12 months	Annual standard poll using OMBEA digital audio response system, inhouse by ISF and partners.	SOYDAVO	50 %	-	
Positive change in targeted women's and men's resilience response to shocks and stressors	Midterm/endline individual interviews and self-reporting on resilience response and the most significant reasons for positive adaptation, inhouse and/or by external consultant.	ADO	n.a.		
Positive change in targeted women's and men's savings capacity	SHG registers + midterm/endline standard poll using OMBEA digital audio response system, inhouse by ISF and partners	ADO	SLS 14,700 in 6 months	-	
Positive change in targeted women's self-efficacy	Ombea poll (5 question average) and midterm/endline individual interviews/FGDs, aligned with General Self-Efficacy Scale		n.a.		
OUTCOME 1: Judicial and moral duty bearers take actions to mitigate VAWG	Laws, standard operating procedures, and action plans on VAWG mitigation prepared by government actors in past 12 months	Project monitoring reports	YPEER	narrative report	
			NAFIS (2023-25)	n.a.	
	Perceptions of community members in target communities on the engagement of duty bearers in mitigating VAWG	Annual FGDs, inhouse by partners	SOYDAVO	narrative report	
			BVO	narrative report	
			YPEER	narrative report	
NAFIS (2023-25)	n.a.				
Output 1.1: Judicial and moral duty bearers have knowledge and attitudes to mitigate VAWG	% of targeted religious & traditional leaders with knowledge/attitudes to mitigate FGM	Annual standard poll using OMBEA digital audio response system, inhouse by ISF and partners.	SOYDAVO	-	44 %
			BVO	-	44 %
			YPEER	-	25 %
			NAFIS (2023-25)	n.a.	n.a.
	% of targeted religious & traditional leaders with knowledge/attitudes to mitigate other forms of VAWG	Annual standard poll using OMBEA digital audio response system, inhouse by ISF and partners.	SOYDAVO	-	65 %
			BVO	-	69 %
			YPEER	-	52 %
			NAFIS (2023-25)	n.a.	n.a.
% of targeted medical/healthcare workers with knowledge/attitudes to mitigate FGM	Annual standard poll using OMBEA digital audio response system, inhouse by ISF and partners.	YPEER	35 %	-	
% of targeted medical/healthcare workers with knowledge/attitudes to mitigating other forms of VAWG	Annual standard poll using OMBEA digital audio response system, inhouse by ISF and partners.	YPEER	66 %	-	
OUTCOME 2: Women and girls collectively claim their rights	% of targeted women who have reported to relevant authorities if they have experienced violence in past 12 months	Annual standard poll using OMBEA digital audio response system, inhouse by ISF and partners.	SOYDAVO	44 %	-
Output 2.1: Women and girls have knowledge and means to collectively claim their rights	% of female who participate in some ISF-supported platforms/forums and have knowledge on right to bodily integrity and VAWG survivor services	Annual standard poll using OMBEA digital audio response system, inhouse by ISF and partners.	SOYDAVO (FGM)	49 %	-
			SOYDAVO (IPV)	68 %	-
			BVO (FGM)	40 %	36 %
			BVO (early marriage)	76 %	58 %
			NAFIS (2023-25)		

RESULTS MATRIX	INDICATORS	MEANS OF VERIFICATION ETC.	PROJECTS WITH THE INDICATOR	BASELINE JAN-2022	
				female	male
OUTCOME 3: Women's sphere of influence has expanded	Perceptions of women on their opportunities to generate income and affect family decisions (e.g. expenditure)	Individual interviews + FGDs, questions aligned with DHS Kenya/participation in household decision, inhouse by partners	ADO	narrative report	
			SOYDAVO	narrative report	
			BVO	narrative report	
Output 3.1: Women and men have attitudes supportive of women's rights	% of targeted wo/men with knowledge and attitudes supportive of abandoning FGM	Annual standard poll using OMBEA digital audio response system, inhouse by ISF and partners.	SOYDAVO	39 %	28 %
			BVO	45 %	29 %
			YPEER	38 %	33 %
			NAFIS (2023-25)	n.a.	n.a.
	% of targeted wo/men with attitudes supportive of abandoning partner violence	Annual standard poll using OMBEA digital audio response system, inhouse by ISF and partners.	SOYDAVO	71 %	58 %
			BVO	64 %	49 %
			YPEER	n.a.	n.a.
			NAFIS (2023-25)	86 %	78 %
OUTCOME 4: Women benefit from services and networks that support livelihood reform	Yearly value of gross sales in selected value chains	Beneficiaries' and cooperative records and/or annual survey with face-to-face interviews, inhouse by ISF and partners	ADO	n.a.	n.a.
			SOYDAVO	Eggs SLS 0	-
			BVO	Tailored products SLS 0	-
	% of targeted women and men who have permanent access to professional development and innovation services	Midterm/endline survey with face-to-face interviews and key informant interviews, by external consultant	ADO	0 %	0 %
			SOYDAVO	0 %	0 %
Output 4.1: Women have improved access to skills development and innovation services	% of targeted women applying new business or vocational skills to generate income	Midterm/endline individual interviews, by external consultant	SOYDAVO	n.a.	n.a.
			BVO	n.a.	-
Output 4.2: Women have improved access to finance and markets	Nr of targeted women and men using savings and loan services in past 12 months	Cooperative and SHG registers	ADO	140	-
	% of direct beneficiaries whose access to productive inputs is improved (seed/fertilizer/pesticide)	Registers and annual standard poll using OMBEA digital audio response system, inhouse by ISF and partners	SOYDAVO	0	-
			ADO	9 %	23 %
			ADO	40 %	57 %
OUTCOME 5: Improved capacity of farm systems to mitigate and adapt to climate change	% of agricultural and grazing land in target area affected by soil erosion	Photo/video using drones, inhouse by ISF and partners.	ADO	100 %	
	Productivity of crops and livestock production	Interviews with farmers and cooperative staff, registers, inhouse by ISF and partners.	ADO	various products*	
	Production volumes of selected crops	Interviews with farmers and cooperative staff, registers, inhouse by ISF and partners.	ADO	n.a.	n.a.
			SOYDAVO	0 eggs	-
Output 5.1: Women and men apply climate smart technologies and practices	% of beneficiaries that have water for agropastoral purposes during all months in the past year	Registers, household and individual interviews, inhouse by ISF and partners and verified in final evaluation by external consultant	ADO	29 %	36 %
	Size of areas (ha) using soil conservation methods as a result of ISF programme	Observation, registers, FGDs, annually inhouse by ISF and partners and verified in final evaluation by external consultant	ADO	n.a.	
	% of targeted farmers who use weather and climate information services in past 12 months	Annual standard poll using OMBEA digital audio response system, inhouse by ISF and partners: % use often	ADO	2 %	5 %

* cowpea 51-100 kg/ha, sorghum 152-200 kg/ha, maize 151-200 kg/ha, sesame 51-100 kg/ha vegetables 51-100 kg/ha, sheep milk <1 l/day, goat milk 1-2 l/day, camel milk 2-4 l/day, cow milk 2-5 l/day