



**INTERNATIONAL
SOLIDARITY
FOUNDATION**

Annual Report 2023

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Table of Contents

1. Introduction	2
2. Strategic performance.....	3
ISF is a key enabler in the eradication of FGM in East Africa.....	3
ISF has growing, stable funding.....	3
ISF is an adaptive and learning organisation.....	4
3. Programme performance in Kenya.....	4
Operating environment.....	4
Partners, projects and beneficiaries	5
ISF advocacy, networking, stakeholder relations, and capacity building.....	7
GOAL: Women and girls’ bodily integrity and livelihood resilience has strengthened	8
Outcome 1: Judicial and moral duty bearers take actions to mitigate VAWG.....	9
Outcome 2: Women and girls collectively claim their rights	13
Outcome 3: Women's sphere of influence has expanded.....	14
Outcome 4: Women benefit from services and networks that support livelihood reform	15
Outcome 5: Improved capacity of farm systems to mitigate and adapt to climate change	18
4. Programme performance in Somaliland	19
Operating environment.....	19
Partners, projects and beneficiaries	21
ISF advocacy, networking, stakeholder relations and capacity building.....	22
GOAL: Women and girls’ bodily integrity and livelihood resilience has strengthened	23
Outcome 1: Judicial and moral duty bearers take actions to mitigate VAWG.....	25
Outcome 2: Women and girls collectively claim their rights	27
Outcome 3: Women's sphere of influence has expanded.....	28
Outcome 4: Women benefit from services and networks that support livelihood reform	29
Outcome 5: Improved capacity of farm systems to mitigate and adapt to climate change	30
5. Programme performance in Ethiopia.....	31
Operating environment.....	31
Partners, projects and beneficiaries	31
ISF advocacy, networking, stakeholder relations and capacity building.....	32
6. Communications, advocacy and private fundraising in Finland.....	32
7. Programme costs and funding	34
ANNEX Results matrix development programme	

1. Introduction

2023 was the second year of implementing the **ISF 2022–2025 strategy**. ISF historically initiated operations in a new country, Ethiopia. Significant efforts were made to secure funding for the programme. In total, four funding submissions were prepared, three of them coordinated by the Nairobi-based Grants Manager, a new position established to diversify the funding base. Collaboration with EU, a significant new donor for ISF’s end-FGM work in Kenya, started in January. The strategic performance is described in detail in the chapter 2.

Also, 2023 was the second year of implementing the **ISF 2022–2025 development cooperation programme**. 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 implementing** in Kenya (6) and Somaliland (5). During the latter half of 2023, one livelihood project in Kenya underwent an exit phase, while one new livelihood project in Kenya and another in Somaliland were in the planning phase. The Ethiopia programme was launched, local staff recruited, and three partners selected, with whom the planning phase officially starts in January 2024.

After **five poor or failed rainy seasons** in the last three years in the Horn of Africa, many families lost their cattle, crops, and entire livelihoods. Drought has been compounded by years of conflict and insecurity, the socioeconomic impacts of COVID-19, and rising food and fuel prices, partly due to the **conflict in Ukraine**. After rainfalls in 2023, the parched ground was unable to absorb all the water, leading to flooding and further devastation. With the cycles of drought followed by flooding, more than 2.5 million people in Ethiopia, Kenya and Somalia have been displaced.

In 2023, ISF programme in Kenya reached almost 12,700 people directly (53% girls/women), and over 38,000 final (or indirect) beneficiaries whose lives are expected to improve due to the programme interventions (95% girls/women). ISF programme in Somaliland reached altogether over 9,500 people directly (56% girls/women), and close to 52,000 final (or indirect) beneficiaries (93% girls/women). In total, the programme reached **over 112,000 people directly and/or indirectly**, of whom 47% were girls and 39% were women.

	female minors	female adults	male minors	male adults	TOTAL	% female	people w. disabilities
KENYA							
direct benef.	1 337	5 442	1 606	4 309	12 694	53 %	62
final benef.	20 378	15 998	1 184	690	38 250	95 %	n.a.
SOMALILAND							
direct benef.	1 065	4 217	1 299	2 899	9 480	56 %	147
final benef.	30 158	17 784	2 750	890	51 582	93 %	n.a.

The programme performance including major developments in the operating environment are described in the chapters 3–5 per country and the supporting annex (Results Matrix).

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 3–5, ISF aims to enhance its own capacity as a key enabler in the eradication of FGM in East Africa by 2025. In 2023, ISF conducted an internal **mapping of key networks and actors** in FGM prevention in ISF target areas. The key objective was to identify potential allies in enhancing the capacity, impact, and visibility of ISF's anti-FGM efforts. While the recommendations were incorporated in the country team's 2024 annual plans, first steps were already taken in 2023: ISF joined a new CSO-led network on ending FGM in Kenya, and advocated and initiated the establishment of a Regional Alliance on Ending Child Marriage and FGM in the Somali region of Ethiopia.

The English-language website, as well as printed materials, were further developed in collaboration between the Helsinki office and country offices. The goal is to better serve current and potential partners of ISF who are interested in FGM prevention and ISF's work in East Africa.

ISF has growing, stable funding

A new Nairobi-based **Grant Manager** position was established in 2023. The Grant Manager's core tasks include preparing funding submissions, ensure donor compliance and developing donor relations. In total, **four funding submissions** were prepared for UN Trust Fund, USAID, French Embassy in Kenya and Feminist Opportunities Now. The Grants Manager also developed tools

that facilitated effective donor mapping. Implementation of ISF's first major **EU-funded project** (1.1 million euros for 4-years FGM work in Kenya) started in January 2024.

In private fundraising, ISF continued to aim for efficient **monthly donor acquisition**. Telemarketing was in a big role as well as digital marketing. Donation products were further developed to ensure competitiveness and standing out as a tempting organisation for target audiences.

ISF is an adaptive and learning organisation

ISF aims to reinforce its resilience and ability to reform itself. In January, the new HQ-based professional **Programme Controller** started her work in strengthening and clarifying programme and project related processes, roles, and responsibilities within the ISF financial administration – a key to good governance and high-quality programme implementation. The finance and administration structure was harmonized and local financial coordinators recruited in all three partner countries. The renewal work was interrupted in August when Financial and Administration Director announced her resignation and the recruitment of new head of ISF Finance and Administration was commenced.

Programme team completed **10 successful recruitments** resulting in committed and skilled individuals joining the team. Programme team, together with Executive Director and Programme Controller (substituting Finance and Admin Director) came together in Limuru, Kenya, in September, to create a joint understanding of ISF's strategy, to develop financial processes and to kick off the 2026–2029 programme design.

Starting a **financial support to third parties (FSTP) scheme** with the EU grant in Kenya constituted an important learning process for ISF, with plenty of potential for strengthening local women's rights movement, for applying the scheme in other ISF programme countries, and for extending ISF work beyond the core themes and modalities.

3. Programme performance in Kenya

Operating environment

Kenya's economic performance strengthened in 2023 despite continued challenges, with real GDP growth accelerating from 4.8% in 2022 to an estimated 5% in 2023. However, Kenya's economy faced several challenges to sustain its growth momentum such as **heightened fiscal and external vulnerabilities** manifested through high public debt, elevated cost of living, exchange rate pressures, global economic uncertainties, and tight global financial conditions. The Kenyan shilling depreciated to record lows against major currencies in the world, even losing against neighbouring countries such as Uganda. The cost of common commodities increased manifold times, for example the cost of fuel and fertilizers by almost 100%. Members of Parliament voted to increase VAT on petroleum products from 8% to 16%. High cost of fuel led to high transport costs which resulted to ISF programme beneficiaries spending more on transporting their produce to the

aggregation centre, which again affected production volumes and resulted in post-harvest losses as most of the produce could not reach the market.

In July, opposition leaders led **anti-government protests** to oppose surging inflation and tax increases. Several people were injured, businesses closed, and property destroyed. According to Law Society of Kenya (LSK) and Amnesty International, 24 people were killed and 41 people sustained serious injuries in Kisumu and Kisii counties during these protests, following altercations with police officers.

In general, Kenya including ISF target counties Kisii and Nyamira experienced **favourable weather conditions** in 2023. However, flooding in some regions cut off transportation, costed 76 lives and forced 40,000 people to displace from their homes. Nyamira county – via the County Agricultural Sector Steering, CASSCOM – anchored on the **Intergovernmental Relations Act section 23** which provides a framework for consolidating the efforts of numerous agricultural initiatives, programmes, and projects at county level. The coordination may increase opportunities for leveraging and connecting various resources within the county and help to reduce duplication of efforts. This change may also create a network of common interest groups for better sustainability of projects and programmes.

The findings of the Kenya Demographic Health Survey (KDHS) were published in 2023, including updated data on the **prevalence of FGM** – plummeting from 38% in 1998 to just 15% in 2022. However, significant differences remain among the counties, Maasai land, Samburu, Kisii still showing relatively high FGM prevalence rates. Also, despite the progress measured in the national prevalence, there is alarming trend of **subjecting young girls** as young as five years old to the cut.

Another significant challenge is the occurrence of **cross-border FGM**, where communities residing along the borders travel to neighbouring countries – mainly Tanzania, Uganda, and Somalia – to carry out the practice. Furthermore, the involvement of **medical professionals** in performing the act presents yet another obstacle, ISF target areas Kisii and Nyamira being the hotspots of medicalized FGM.

Partners, projects and beneficiaries

In 2023, the ISF Kenya programme included seven projects. Two were implemented by ISF directly, and four by local partners, two of which with EU funding extending till end-2026. Additionally, a banana fibre value chain project was in a planning phase. The BWCBO-led livelihood project was in turn terminated through a 6-month long exit phase.

Project name	Timeline	Partner organization	Area/region
Muongano Gender Forum	2022–25	ISF implementation	Nyamira and Kisii counties
Improving BWCBO women farmer's livelihood resilience	2022–23	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

Project name	Timeline	Partner organization	Area/region
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
Utilization of banana fiber to improve women's livelihood	2023–25	Manga Heart	Nyamira county
Grassroots Initiative (Financial support to third parties)	2023–25	ISF implementation	Nyamira and Kisii counties

The table below summarises the people who directly participated in the ISF Kenya programme activities in 2023, by age, gender, and their 'role' or position within the community and/or project implementation. Altogether, **12,694 people** physically participated in ISF programme activities in Kenya in 2023, 53% of whom were females. Over 38,000 final beneficiaries' (of whom 95% girls/women) lives are expected to improve due to the programme interventions. Additionally, over 114,000 people followed the online sessions organized by the Muungano Gender Forum project.

Direct beneficiaries reached in 2023	female minors	female adults	male minors	male adults	TOTAL	% female	people w disability
Alternative rite of passage participants	193				193	100 %	0
community members	303	3 996	283	3 734	8 316	52 %	0
community volunteers		8		1	9	89 %	0
farmers		616		11	627	98 %	45
gender professionals		20		14	34	59 %	0
health professionals		138		103	241	57 %	0
livelihood peer advisers		24		3	27	89 %	2
livelihood professionals		65	0	44	109	60 %	0
male champions			650	62	712	0 %	0
media professionals		13		34	47	28 %	0
officials		60		110	170	35 %	0
parents		237		38	275	86 %	0
religious leaders		18		41	59	31 %	0
school children	841		673		1 514	56 %	12
teachers		27		15	42	64 %	0
traditional leaders		32		47	79	41 %	0
women groups		151			151	100 %	3
youth		17		22	39	44 %	0
TOTAL direct beneficiaries	1 337	5 442	1 606	4 309	12 694	53 %	62

The number of direct **beneficiaries with disabilities** remained low (62), consisting mainly of NNWS project beneficiaries. Two trained peer advisers are people with disabilities (PwD) and beneficiaries with disabilities participate in all project activities, including sensitization sessions on gender-based violence. NNWS provides special savings and loan services for PwD and the project targets 40 PwD women farmers who were given training and regular advice on the production, post-harvest handling and bulking of the African indigenous vegetables.

Achieving **inclusivity for individuals with disabilities** requires thoughtful planning and consideration to address physical and communication barriers. ISF is purposeful in venue planning and inclusive during mobilization but lacks a clear approach of PwD inclusion. Towards 2026–29 programme, ISF aims to collaborate more intensively with local disability organisations to develop inclusive strategies, such as accessible venues, materials, and communication methods.

ISF advocacy, networking, stakeholder relations, and capacity building

In 2023, ISF started implementing an **EU funded 4-year (2023–2026) project *Civil society united against GBV in Kisii and Nyamira counties***, covering two partner led projects and an ISF-led project granting financial support to third parties (FSTP). Led by the Nairobi-based Grants Manager, ISF intensively communicated with the EU delegation in Nairobi. In November, ISF and partners hosted a joint delegation from the EU delegation and MFA Embassy in Nairobi, who visited the project sites in Kisii and Nyamira and participated in the official launch of the FSTP scheme, celebrating the first group of ten FSTP grantees.

To address the recommendations from the internal mapping of key networks and actors in FGM prevention (ISF 2023), the GBV Field Coordinator participated in the launch of a **new CSO-led network on ending FGM in Kenya** and ISF thereby joined the community engagement technical working group.

In Kisii and Nyamira, ISF assisted **the Ministry of Agriculture** in extending support for agricultural activities; Department of Social Services in resolving organizational and management issues within the BWCBO; and Ministry of Cooperatives Development, Kenya Industrial Research Development Institute (KIRDI) and Kenya Agricultural and Livestock Research Organization (KALRO) in supporting the banana fibre project. Through the Muungano project, ISF collaborated with the Kisii county government and other CSO's in drafting the Kisii county gender and children's policies, however, these are yet to be finalized and launched in readiness for implementation.

ISF participated in **Kenya Innovation Week (KIW)** to showcase its work. The KIW provides a platform for building synergies between government, academia, companies, investors, and the informal sector. ISF and partners also participated at the Business Ecosystem summit and the African Climate summit. With ISF support, NNWS participated in East Africa Trade Fair held in Burundi which created a learning opportunity, networking, marketing, and collaboration with other actors regionally.

ISF trained all its local staff and partners (total 22 people) on **AgriCord Building Resilience (BR) and Sustainable Agriculture and Land Management (SALM) toolkits**. Training was conducted by the Finnish Agri-Agency for Food and Forest Development (FFD), the Farm Forestry

Smallholder Producers Association of Kenya (FF-SPAK) and We Effect Sweden. One representative from County Ministry of Agriculture participated in the training.

All ISF staff and partners were also trained on **safe space guidelines** and **code of conduct for meetings, trainings, and events**. Related to the new FSTP scheme, the first batch of grantees were taken through a one-week capacity-building covering issuing on movement building, GBV prevention, and communication with facilitators from partner organizations and external experts. Related to another new project that will develop business from banana crop waste, ISF facilitated cooperation with Finnish design company **Mifuko** and **Kenya Industrial Research and Development Institute (KIRDI)** to promote this new business in Kenya.

GOAL: Women and girls' bodily integrity and livelihood resilience has strengthened

Percentage of targeted parents who have and/or are willing to reject FGM

Regarding the willingness of parents to reject FGM, there has been a notable increase in both project areas. In Kisii, 82% of women and 79% of men (*76% and 67% in 2022*) express willingness to reject FGM, compared to 73% of women and 64% of men in Nyamira (*71% and 62% in 2022*).

These improved figures underline the impact of continuous parental engagement. However, it's important to note that positive attitudes don't always translate into action, considering that 18% of women and 21% of men in Kisii and 27% of women and 36% of men in Nyamira still hold non-supportive attitudes towards abandoning FGM. This highlights the need to address various influencing factors at the household level, such as fear, peer pressure, religious beliefs, and traditional expectations.

Public declarations to abandon FGM in the last 12 months

At CECOME, the number of families making public declarations against FGM remained steady at 93, consistent with the targeted ARP beneficiaries and their parents for the 2023 cohort.

Conversely, at Manga Heart, there has been a significant increase from 64 to 97 families engaging in public declarations. This rise can be attributed to active participation in school activities and positive parenting initiatives during the year. During the ARP graduation events, both parents and girls made oral declarations against conducting or undergoing FGM, showing a strong commitment to ending the practice.

Percentage of targeted women who have experienced partner violence often or sometimes in past 12 months

Manga Heart's project areas in Nyamira have seen a decrease from 53% in 2022 to 37% in 2023, and Cecome's project areas in Kisii a decrease from 32% to 29%. Increased awareness, improved conflict management methods, and spousal involvement in project activities have contributed to this decline. Additionally, the continuous engagement of trusted religious leaders in sensitization, conflict resolution, and mediation has proven beneficial in further reducing the prevalence of PV.

Within the NNWS project beneficiaries, in turn, partner violence seems to have increased from 41% to 53%. This might be due to the ever-deteriorating economic situation of the households, following inflation and climate hazards that jeopardize men's livelihoods.

Positive change in targeted women's and men's savings capacity

The current economic crisis was still reflected in women's saving capacity. For example, NNWS members' saving capacity increased slightly from 2022 but has not come back to the high levels in 2021. Due to the inflation, especially family expenditure on non-food items has increased. Almost all the women (98%) save money weekly or monthly and savings help overcome challenges, i.e., strengthen resilience. The access to finance also enables agriculture production which is a major source of income to 96% of the women: over half of the women have taken loan before planting time to buy seeds, fertilizers and pesticides and have paid back the loan after harvest.

Positive change in targeted women's self-efficacy

The challenging years are also reflected in the self-efficacy results. Women feel that they have less control over their own life and unexpected future. They also feel that accomplishing their personal goals is getting harder.

The programme outcome specific chapters that follow, describe the key activities during the reporting period, related outputs that are expected to lead to the respective outcome, and the progress considering the programme output and outcome indicators (see Annex Result Matrix).

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

Ongoing joint initiatives between the **Department of Health, Area Advisory Council and community level duty bearers** aimed at fostering cooperation and commitment towards eradicating GBV. Manga Heart and CECOME provided regular training sessions for duty bearers on case investigation and handling, referral pathways, and available psychosocial services. Additionally, the toll-free line for GBV survivors (operated by ISF and all partners jointly) facilitates reporting and hence addressing the culture of impunity.

200 Community Health Workers (CHWs) underwent training on GBV effects, their role in advocating against various forms of GBV, and providing psychosocial support services. Gradually becoming Anti-GBV Ambassadors, they were sensitizing the community on the negative health effects of GBV, providing advice, receiving reports of FGM and partner violence cases, liaising with relevant authorities, and offering counselling and referrals to both victims and perpetrators. Also, **41 medical professionals at public and private hospitals** were encouraged to cease performing FGM and engage more actively in the fight against it. Continuous counselling sessions for GBV survivors were conducted.

Manga Heart and CECOME also engaged **faith-based organizations (FBO) and 59 religious leaders** in disseminating information on FGM and PV, seeking to position them as role models in addressing GBV. In 2023, a key focus was on establishing the FBO network, which brought together church leaders from Kisii and Nyamira counties. The project facilitated dialogues with

various religious bodies in the project areas, engaging local communities and the media in panel discussions.

The ISF-led Grassroots Initiative project, implementing **financial support to third parties (FSTP)** scheme, was launched in 2023. The project cultivates an energetic **grassroots movement** to boost the GBV eradication in Kisii and Nyamira. Selection of the first batch of 10 grantees, their capacity building, and action planning took place in September–December 2023. Action implementation begins in February 2024.

To strengthen the grassroots movement, the media plays a crucial role in covering and amplifying anti-GBV actions and messages. In 2023, CECOME and Manga Heart project staff-led **TV/radio shows** were recognized for extending the impact beyond project boundaries and sensitizing broader audiences on the effects of FGM and partner violence. **Social media** was actively utilized, including Facebook live broadcasts, Instagram and TikTok messages and videos. Moreover, **bulk messaging** services are employed for communication and coordination of activities with, for example, targeted community duty bearers and parents of the kids in school programs.

To complement and boost the projects implemented by the partners, ISF has since 2018 ran the Muungano Gender Forum project – a **multisectoral platform for discussing women’s rights** in Kisii and Nyamira. The project targets both duty bearers and grassroots, aiming to bring them together in weekly grassroots sessions circulating in the partner-led projects’ target communities. The 2022-25 project primarily address the underreporting and thereby impunity around GBV by building trust between community members on one hand, and chiefs and police on the other hand, and by increasing dialogue on SGBV at family and community level and thereby breaking the taboos around the topic. In 2023, the session addressed, among others, the role of men in ending FGM, positive parenting and parents’ role in ending GBV, sexual violence and abuse, drugs, and substance abuse.

In what follows the targeted duty bearers and the changes in their knowledge and awareness (output level) and behaviour (outcome level) are reported as per different roles and positions, starting from religious leaders, then traditional leaders (paralegals, chiefs, village elders, and miji kumi), and lastly medical professionals and community health workers.

Manga Heart in Nyamira County reported an increase in **religious leaders’ knowledge and supportive attitudes toward mitigating FGM** among male religious leaders (*ind. 1.1-1*), from 86% to 95%, but a decrease among female religious leaders from 91% to 85%. CECOME in Kisii noted an increase, from 88% among women and 91% among men to 94% among both genders. Regarding **religious leaders’ knowledge and supportive attitudes toward mitigating and partner violence** (*ind. 1.1-2*), Manga Heart reported an increase from 90% among women and 92% among men to 93% among women and 99% among men. At CECOME, the percentage was at 100% at the baseline level but dropped slightly to 99% for women and 98% for men. Religious institutions have long served as places where congregants seek mediation and advice on PV.

To monitor whether the duty bearers are committed to GBV mitigation and actively address the issue in their encounter with community members, focus group discussions were organized with women, men, and youth on their **perceptions of the role of duty bearers in mitigating VAWG** (*ind. 1-2*). They did recognize the role of religious leaders and faith-based organizations in disseminating information on FGM and PV, at best integrated into existing activities and programs,

such as the family life program by the Seventh Day Adventist Church and teachings during women's ministries programs by the Catholic Church.

When it comes to **traditional leaders' knowledge supportive of mitigating FGM** (*ind. 1.1-3*) The annual data collection in 2023 show sustained knowledge and supportive attitudes toward ending FGM among targeted paralegals, chiefs, village elders, and miji kumi. However, a disparity persists between male and female duty-bearers regarding perceptions of FGM and partner violence: Women show higher awareness, whereby extra efforts are needed to enhance male duty bearers' sensitivity toward FGM. Paralegals, chiefs, village elders, and miji kumi have exhibited increased knowledge and attitudes supporting FGM mitigation, with male duty bearers showing a 3-percentage unit rise (86 to 89%) in awareness in Kisii. In CECOME's intervention, there is a need to narrow the gap between male and female duty-bearers' attitudes toward FGM. Meanwhile, Manga Heart's intervention in Nyamira reports sustained levels of support for ending FGM, with a slight 1-percentage unit (92 to 93%) increase among female duty bearers. Efforts will focus on enhancing male duty bearers' sensitivity to ensure complete understanding.

Kisii and Nyamira project areas have achieved notable success in increasing **traditional leaders' awareness on partner violence** (*ind. 1.1-4*). Overall, supportive attitudes towards mitigating PV have increased significantly for both genders, with awareness reaching 98% in CECOME's project area and 97% (men) and 96% (women) in Manga Heart's. Furthermore, women in administrative leadership roles are actively encouraged to advocate for women's rights and amplify their voices.

Moving forward, it is crucial to translate existing knowledge and positive attitudes into concrete actions. Interventions should address the fear associated with campaigning against FGM/PV, apprehend perpetrators, and set positive examples within the community. Closing gaps between attitudes towards FGM and PV and enhancing sensitivity among male duty-bearers remain crucial objectives for future interventions.

Whether duty bearers' increased knowledge and attitudes supportive of mitigating FGM and partner violence leads to action is monitored with **laws, standard operating procedures, and action plans that they introduce and or enforce** (*ind. 1-1*). There has been a notable increase in interventions by local chiefs and paralegals, reflecting enhanced effectiveness in addressing GBV within the communities. This increase is particularly significant in Nyamira where reported cases have risen from 12 to 57. In Kisii, interventions decreased from 8 to 6, potentially indicating improved case management. The increase in reported cases submitted by chiefs largely reflects their enhanced effectiveness in GBV. Previously, such cases were often dismissed or disregarded, with victims sometimes facing further victimization. However, chiefs are now more empowered and aware of the oversight regarding GBV cases, leading them to take these matters more seriously and even encourage victims to come forward. Attendance at chiefs' baraza meetings revealed a steadfast commitment among chiefs to act against perpetrators of GBV within their communities. However, challenges persist, including the lack of evidence, victim concealment, corruption, and insufficient awareness.

Encouraging arrests and convictions in GBV cases remains challenging, highlighting the continued need to improve reporting mechanisms and address barriers to justice. In Nyamira, convictions increased from 1 to 4, while in Kisii, convictions decreased from 3 to 0. This decrease was primarily due to operationalization issues (as described under Activity 4) with the toll-free GBV reporting line. Ongoing challenges such as victim concealment and cultural norms favouring informal resolution continue to hinder progress in this area. The reluctance to report GBV stems

from various factors, including secrecy, fear of testifying in court, apprehension about victimization, cultural norms preferring informal resolution, and financial burdens of seeking justice. The decrease in convictions after GBV cases were reported via the toll-free line underscores the difficulties in managing the line effectively.

When it comes to the percentage of **medical staff and community health workers' knowledge supportive of mitigating FGM** (*ind. 1.1-5*), in CECOME's intervention in Kisii county, there was an increase from 91% among women to 96%, while among men, it decreased from 100% to 97%. This reduction among men is attributed to new interviewees who may not have been direct beneficiaries of the project. In Manga Heart's intervention in Nyamira, women showed a decrease from 96% to 93%, and men increased from 86% to 89%. These results reveal positive progress in both project regions, highlighting the project's focus on translating knowledge into action and aiming for comprehensive engagement and awareness across all demographics.

Regarding **attitudes on partner violence** (*ind. 1.1-6*), medical staff and community healthcare workers demonstrated increased support for mitigating it in CECOME's intervention in Kisii, rising from 92% for women and 94% for men, to 98% for women and 96% for men. This increase is attributed to extensive training, sensitization sessions, and regular follow-ups. However, greater staff involvement in project activities is needed to sustain progress. Meanwhile, in Manga Heart's intervention in Nyamira, knowledge and attitudes regarding PV reached the target level of 100% among both male and female recipients. Efforts are needed to translate this PV knowledge into action through interventions like counselling, referrals, reporting, and presenting data to broader GBV platforms.

Through focus group discussions, community members' **perceptions on the role of medical staff and CHWs in mitigating VAWG** (*ind. 1-2*) was mapped. Community members maintain the belief that FGM persists within hospital settings, especially private hospitals, with cut girls allegedly admitted and treated before discharge upon healing. Additionally, there's a perception that medical practitioners from public hospitals conduct FGM procedures within girls' homes to evade detection and arrest. Community members stressed that if medical personnel refrain from performing FGM, the practice could cease entirely in Kisii and Nyamira. Therefore, they urge advocating for stringent monitoring of private clinics by the ministry, and increased involvement of medical personnel in combatting FGM and advising parents against the practice.

Moreover, community members expressed concern that Community Health Workers (CHWs) may be involved in performing FGM on girls in their homes due to their close relationships with community members and access to households. They advocate for increased engagement with CHWs to raise awareness about FGM and for ministry officials to closely monitor their activities to deter them from practicing FGM. However, they also recognize the potential for CHWs to play a significant role in ending FGM by advocating against it within the community and at the household level by providing advice, reporting cases to relevant authorities, and offering counselling and referrals to victims and perpetrators.

Outcome 2: Women and girls collectively claim their rights

In targeted project schools in Kisii and Nyamira, Manga Heart and CECOME organized **school peer club sessions** on FGM, with a special focus on students with disabilities who are more susceptible to various forms of violence. Teachers were also trained to ensure the dissemination of knowledge as part of the school curriculum. **Creative activities** for learners included public speaking and debating on FGM, along with sports events themed around FGM. Girls participated in safe space sessions where discussions revolved around hygiene, FGM, and sexual violence.

Alternative Rites of Passage (ARP) holiday mentorship programs took place during the April and August breaks, with a curriculum guided by the Msichana Jasiri program manual. The 2023 cohort consisted of 193 girls who graduated in November and December respectively. Dialogue sessions were conducted with parents of ARP participants to promote family support. Joint parent-child dialogue sessions were held to discuss life skills and the role parents in shaping their children's future. Adult male champions were involved in training boys through the **Coaching Boys to Men** program, along with conducting men-only sessions focusing on life skills, positive parenting, and GBV awareness.

The expected output of the school activities and the alternative rite of passage programme is that knowledge on bodily integrity and survivor support services increases. In the Kisii target schools, the **percentage of peer influencers with supportive knowledge and attitudes regarding FGM increased** (*ind. 2.1-1*). The baseline for girls and boys was 77% and 69%, while in 2023, they increased to 83% and 80% respectively. On the other hand, Manga Heart observed a decline among the Nyamira target schools, where the baseline figures for girls and boys were 84% and 86%, whereas in 2023, they decreased to 81% and 77% respectively. This decline was primarily due to the targeting of a lower age cohort, focusing more on children aged 7-11 years compared to the 2022 groups.

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 all partner-led projects. For example, to strengthen the **Anti-VAWG volunteers'** capacity in sensitizing women farmers, the NNWS team provided them with refresher training on family communication, gender roles and human rights, GBV prevention and response, and introduction to FGM. The volunteers reported in monthly meetings that women increasingly speak on their GBV experiences and concerns within the group and at the community level, and an increasing number of community members voluntarily join the GBV-related discussions.

The **paralegals** trained NNWS project team and volunteers on legislation and practices of GBV case management and case referrals. After the raining women were trained on mandate of a paralegal in the community, legislation and GBV prevention and response practices. After the training, NNWS organised a **community forum** that introduced the paralegals and their responsibilities in GBV prevention and response to project beneficiaries. NNWS members promised to utilize the paralegals on reporting of cases and the paralegals prosed to attend NNWS activities to strengthen the collaboration.

In cooperation with Nyamira North Subcounty leaders, the subcounty gender desk, the Police Department, Nyamira prisons, Beyond Tomorrow Foundation, Anti-GBV Adventist campaigns,

Path, CTWWC, Children department, Nuru Ya Mtoto Foundation, Catholic Church and local community leaders, the NNWS team organised a **16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence campaign** effort including a march and a session called 'Let's change the story'.

With well-informed duty bearers operating at the community level and implementing proper case-handling procedures, there is an expectation for an **increased reporting of VAWG cases to relevant authorities** (*ind. 2-1*). In Kisii County, among CECOME target beneficiaries, the percentage of targeted women who have reported to relevant authorities if they experienced partner violence decreased from 29% in 2022 to 25% in 2023, In Nyamira the percentage increased from 26% to 30% among Manga Heart beneficiaries, but decreased from 23% to 19% among BWCBO beneficiaries, and from 30% to 28% among NNWS beneficiaries. Persistent barriers to reporting remain: fear of retaliation, the desire to protect the family's reputation, and a lack of trust in the justice system. Additionally, the local toll-free helpline for SGBV survivors, operated by ISF and the partners, faced several technical and operational problems in 2023.

Another indication of women and girls increasingly claiming their rights are the female school club and ARP participants advocating against FGM. At Manga Heart, the number increased from 33 to 67, likely attributed to the engagement of the ARP participants in role model programs. At CECOME, the number has remained at 93 over the last 12 months.

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.

ISF support to women's collective business development has made women a **visible and integral part of the local agri-business development**. Through their member cooperatives, women cooperate with the Ministry of Agriculture in Nyamira, the Agriculture Training Centres and experts in various fields. For example, Support from National Agricultural Rural Inclusive Growth Project (NARIGP) bought equipment to NNWS aggregation site.

ISF-led Muungano Gender Forum project continued organising **Soko Freshi open trade fairs** where women (942) and men (763) including people with disabilities (32) showcased their income generating activities, gained skills and knowledge from the exhibitors and formed linkages. For example, The Equity Bank's foundation trained women in start-up business management and expansion strategies for startups. Besides GBV related topics (see Outcome 2), the weekly **grassroots events** addressed the property, succession and inheritance rights, the cost of women's unpaid work, financial literacy and joint family budgeting.

NNWS organised a **community forum** that dealt with decision making at home. As a result of the discussion, men formed a **male champion group** (90 men) who will help in awareness creation against IPV and educate other men on importance of joint decision making. Men also decided to give the women more land for vegetable farming, and they helped women in transporting vegetables to NNWS aggregation centre. As a follow-up measure the project organised male only

session where spouses of beneficiary women, ISF partner representatives and community leaders discussed about men's role in ending GBV in the household and the community. Altogether the programme in Kenya engaged 650 boys and 62 men as male allies.

Almost all (97%) of the NNWS and BWCBO female beneficiaries who responded to the annual survey reported that they have some **influence over major household decisions** (*ind. 3-1*), for example what crops to grow, purchase of inputs, equipment, and land. This is significant improvement compared to the baseline level of 26%. The mid-term evaluation of NNWS and BWCBO projects conducted in 2023 verified this result, and in addition, women were found to participate more in community-level networks and activities.

On the other hand, the mid-term evaluation indicates that only 24% of women who had taken out a loan were allowed to independently decide on its use. The lack of control over the use of money has led to cases where spouses use the loans or earnings inappropriately.

*Sometimes we are forced to protect our members against rough husbands who want to take advantage of the earnings from sales of local vegetables and dividends. We literally cover up what she has earned.
(BWCBO member in FGD).*

Regards women and men's attitudes on women and girls' rights, there has been a noteworthy improvement in **parental attitudes towards abandoning FGM** (*ind. 3.1-1*) in both target counties. In the Manga Heart project areas in Nyamira, 93% of women and 91% of men now hold supportive knowledge and attitudes toward ending FGM, while in the CECOME project areas in Kisii these figures stand at 93% of women and 92% of men. This strong awareness is a result of comprehensive community-level discussions, alternative rites of passage sessions for parents, and health education on the dangers of medicalized FGM.

Concerning **attitudes towards abandoning partner violence** (*ind. 3.1-2*), both counties have witnessed significant increases in awareness and action against partner violence. 94% of women and 95% of men in Kisii, and 96% of both women and men in Nyamira hold supportive attitudes toward abandoning PV. However, factors beyond individual control, such as childhood trauma, cultural norms, anger, and shame, warrant further investigation and incorporation of relevant knowledge areas like anger management and conflict resolution.

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

Most of the women run their gardens like a business, not like home garden, and keep weekly expense and income records to support business planning. Women farmers also increasingly **follow up market prices** (*ind. 4.2-3*): 83% of targeted women farmers in NNWS (baseline 65%) and 70% (39%) in BWCBO monitor prices on regular basis. Women farmers were trained by the Equity Bank in startup business management and growth. Women **use savings and loan services of the cooperative to develop their business and overcome challenging periods**: 78% of NNWS members used savings and loan services in 2023 (*ind.4.2-1*).

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 Leafy Vegetables (ALVs). Women started stagger plantings to ensure uninterrupted supply of vegetable to contract buyers. NNWS started to plan a fully digital MIS system to enable efficient tracking of production information and quick communication between women farmers and the cooperative. The system will be fully functional when all data is digitized.

95% of the **women are part of this permanent advisory system** (*ind. 4-2*) that will continue after the ISF programme is over. According to the mid-term evaluation, all the women **communicate directly with peer advisers** of whom 24 are female, three male, and two female PwD (*ind.4.1-1*). 58% of them women get advice from the Extension staff, and 84% report having very good access to information on modern farming methods. In addition, partners will continue cooperation with KALRO Kilimo Bora mobile training centre for farmers.

High cost of productive inputs, such as seeds and fertilisers, reduce agri-business profit. ISF continued improving farmers' own seed and fertilizer production. Most BWCBO members practice composting and vermicomposting. Women and men, mostly youth, produce mushroom spawn, which reduced farming costs and ensured continuous spawn availability to mushroom growers. But still only 29% of the women **bought their production inputs through their organisation** (*ind. 4.2-2*) while 60% inputs independently, without price reduction from bulking.

The ISF programme achieved significant results in improving HACCP system of NNWS. Hazard Analysis Critical Control Points (HACCP) is the most internationally recognised system in which food safety is addressed from raw material production to the consumption of the finished product. As a result of the capacitation actions, cooperative's all products are certified according to the national standards, which opens opportunities to sell products in big markets and food industry in Kenya, but also in neighbouring countries.

NNWS opened a community shop to stock beneficiaries' inputs and to sell products, such as dried and powdered vegetables and mushrooms. Based on the recommendations of the mid-term evaluation, NNWS started to equip satellite aggregation centres and organised a collective transport of ALVs that was used by 300 women farmers. ISF linked partners with the Kisii Smart Community and their programme with Toyota Foundation to support sustainable transport. Two young women from BWCBO are in driving school (electric car) and can start a transport business to support vegetable and banana fibre value chains.

NNWS renewed the contract farming agreement with Mace Foods Ltd and got another buyer for contract farming (Fresh Choice Groceries and Cereals Ltd.). The Mace Foods recruited one peer advisor as Food Control Quality Manager to support and check NNWS capacity in meeting HACCP standards. NNWS project team and beneficiaries participated in various trade fairs during the year. For example, the EAC MCMEs Trade Fair held in Burundi. The trade fairs are an excellent opportunity to learn about market requirements, contact potential new buyers, and getting to know the competitors. In 2023, ISF also supported NNWS in developing a company business model that will be finalised in 2024.

ISF and its partners Manga Heart and CECOME planned a new project that develops a profitable business from banana crop waste in the Kisii area. The project will focus on utilizing banana fibre as a raw material for handicraft products, but it also explores opportunities to commercialize other

products (fertilizers, energy briquettes). The project will target young women, including survivors of IPV, in the communities where ISF implements VAWG prevention projects. The project will cooperate with Finnish design company Mifuko and Kenya Industrial Research and Development Institute (KIRDI) to promote this new business in Kenya.

The **sales through NNWS and BWCBO** increased 40% from 2022 (*ind. 4-1*) but did not reach the top value in 2021. According to the mid-term evaluation, 76% of women sell ALVs independently which is not shown in the indicator value. In the evaluation 76% of women reported a significant increase in sales of ALVs and mushrooms during the ISF programme implementation. Only 11% of women indicated that their sales values have decreased.

According to the mid-term evaluation, women have entered new and bigger markets through their organisations, for example contract farming agreements with two big wholesalers. However, the process of commercializing new products is still in progress, although a good basis for growth has been created. Key recommendations from the NNWS mid-term evaluation are firstly, that the production volumes and steady production throughout and between years must be strengthened, by increasing vertical farming and use of shade nets, improving access to water, scaling up seed, spawn and fertilizer production, and bulk buying of production inputs. Women also need additional training in business planning. Secondly, the quality chain needs refining to improve access to new markets and to reduce food waste and production costs by improving transport and collection and getting the products certified (where some progress was already made in 2023). Thirdly, NNWS needs a proper business model, based on which it can profitably provide services to its members. If the cooperative cannot offer proper services without external support, women's opportunities are reduced. The cooperative has about 2,000 members who can benefit from the services developed by the project.

LESSON LEARNT on organisational development and ISF approach:

ISF conducted a learning-oriented final evaluation of the BWCBO project, aimed to improve ISF's operating method in supporting member-based organisations' mission and service provision for its members without jeopardizing, but instead increasing transparency and accountability. The evaluation recommended the following improvements:

1. More emphasis on developing organization's resource mobilization, financial management system and its transparency and accountability. ISF trained project staff and organisational leaders in project financial management, but BWCBO's capacity to plan, manage and control its internal cash flows was not strengthened well. As a result, financial documentation and internal controls for own generated cash flows was not carried out at group and organizational level. The same is true of BWCBO's ability to conduct audits and report to the Kenyan government.
2. The members of the organization should be at the centre of all project activities. ISF should support the management in developing transparent decision-making as well as conflict resolution mechanisms. ISF should give the members regular possibilities to reflect on the project implementation and results, they should participate in decision making over the use and distribution of resources and, if possible, members could also participate in budgeting or have possibility to check the activity budgets.
3. ISF should refine its communication methods and instructions on power relations between ISF, recruited project staff, partner's management, and members.

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

Peer advisers and women farmers received further training in climate resilient farming practices and challenges and solutions were discussed during the monthly field visits of MoA and Kenya Climate Innovation Centre, KCIC.

ISF trained all its partners in using AgriCord Building Resilience (BR) and Sustainable Agriculture and Land Management (SALM) toolkits that are step-by-step guides for a Farmer's Organisations and farmers to assess climate risks and design adaptation. Training was conducted by the Finnish Agri-Agency for Food and Forest Development (FFD), the Farm Forestry Smallholder Producers Association of Kenya (FF-SPAK) and We Effect Sweden. One representative from County Ministry of Agriculture participated in the training.

According to the mid-term evaluation, there has been steady increase in application of modern farming practices: 85% of women practice soil and water management using one or several methods (mulching, multistorey gardens, double digging, raised beds, composting) and integrated pest management methods (intercropping and rotation, soap and ash). In NNWS case, **18 ha of land is cultivated by using practices and technologies that enhance soil conservation** (*ind. 5.1-2*). Half of the **women follow up WhatsApp weather forecast updates** from Nyamira County, which help women to time the planting (*ind. 5.1-3*)

The use of composted fertilisers has become important especially in the farming of African Leafy Vegetables. The considerable increase in the fertiliser prices further increased interest and 195 women produce composted fertilisers in their farm and sell it to other women farmers. ISF linked BWCBO and NNWS to the national Agricultural Sector Development Support Programme (ASDSP) that set up a vermicomposting unit to a demo farm.

NNWS participated in the Africa Climate Summit in Nairobi where the ED of the cooperative shared insights on the role of women involvement in climate change. She underscored the importance of empowering women farmers through education and training, and access to resources, which in turn enhances their resilience to climate change impacts.

The new banana fibre project enhances circular economy in Kisii through developing a profitable business from banana crop waste. The focus is on utilizing banana fibre as a raw material for handicraft products, but the project also explores opportunities to commercialize fertilizer and energy briquette production.

In NNWS, women produced **11,657 kg of ALVs, 22% increase from 2022, and 803 kg of mushrooms, 20% increase from 2022** (*ind. 5-1*). The production volumes are lower than in 2021 due to the same reason as the decrease in sales values. Based on the mid-term evaluation, 76% of women reported that their production and sales have increased significantly because of the project. Improved yields and food hygiene, longer shelf-life of products, composting and on-farm seed multiplication have increased women's resilience capacity. The creation of a monitoring and advisory system in cooperation with the County extension service has had the greatest effect on the increase in production volumes.

4. Programme performance in Somaliland

Operating environment

In 2023, Somaliland grappled with a myriad of formidable challenges spanning the realms of social, political, security, and economic spheres. Foremost among these trials was the **eruption of conflict in the Sool region**. Concurrently, the prolonged and punishing **drought** further exacerbated the vulnerabilities of already-strained communities. Complicating matters further, **disputes over the election timeline** and management ignited political discord, deepening existing divisions within the populace. The confluence of these crises exacted a heavy toll on the region's economy, as resources were diverted towards conflict resolution and humanitarian aid, impeding economic growth and stability.

Foremost among the adversities wrought by the drought was the dire impact on agricultural productivity. **Crop failures** proliferated as arable lands withered under the relentless assault of dry earth and scant rainfall. The resultant scarcity of staple crops precipitated **acute food shortages**, compounding the vulnerability of already marginalized populations. Equally distressing was the plight of the region's once-thriving livestock sector, which bore the brunt of the drought's ferocity. Livestock, the lifeblood of many communities, found themselves deprived of sustenance as pastures withered and water sources dwindled to mere trickles. The resultant **livestock deaths** constituted a staggering blow to both the economic stability and cultural fabric of Somaliland.

Moreover, the **scarcity of water** emerged as a pressing concern of unprecedented magnitude. Access to potable water became an increasingly elusive commodity as traditional water sources dwindled to perilous levels, leaving communities teetering on the brink of dehydration and waterborne diseases.

Amidst this backdrop of adversity, however, glimmers of hope began to emerge with the arrival of the long-awaited **rainy seasons**. The onset of the (gu) season in April followed by the (deyr) season in September heralded a much-needed respite for communities beleaguered by the relentless grip of drought. The rejuvenating rains brought with them a palpable sense of relief, revitalizing arid landscapes, and replenishing depleted water reserves. For many, the rains represented a lifeline, offering the promise of renewed agricultural productivity and restored livelihoods.

In the tumultuous landscape of 2023, the conflict in the Sool region emerged as a pivotal issue, presenting formidable security and stability challenges to Somaliland. The roots of this conflict stretch back to early 2023, when local grievances regarding unresolved killings in Las'Anod city sparked protests the Somaliland administration. Tensions escalated sharply as Somaliland security forces intervened to quell the demonstrations, exacerbating mistrust and animosity between the security apparatus and the local populace, eventually culminating in **armed confrontations** by February 2023. At its core, the conflict is fuelled by deep-seated territorial disputes and historical grievances among disparate clans and communities. These tensions erupted into open hostilities, perpetuating a cycle of violence that exacted a heavy toll on lives, displaced countless individuals,

and ravaged vital infrastructure, compounding the region's already dire humanitarian crisis. OCHA estimated that 345 institutions were closed, 54,000 students out of school, and 2,045 educators out of work because of the conflict.

The structural, institutional, and cultural barriers that impede women and girls' access to income, wealth, resources, and decision-making roles in Somaliland leave them especially vulnerable to the difficulties that accompany conflict-driven displacement. According to SIHA, most of the **women and girls displaced by the Las'Anod conflict are living in precarious and dire situations**, some in makeshift shelters in the open and or under trees, wherein their basic needs are not being met. Being out of school makes girls much more likely to be **forced into marriage**, which combined with the economic hardship facing the displace, many families are likely to turn to child marriage to stay afloat. Young, orphaned girls are particularly vulnerable in this context and are thus most likely to be forced into nonconsensual marriages, and exploitative or unsafe labour.

The turning point arrived on August 25th when **SSC militias launched a series of coordinated attacks** on Somaliland military bases on the outskirts of the city, inflicting heavy casualties and capturing key installations. In the face of this unexpected setback, Somaliland forces hastily retreated, fleeing westward in disarray as SSC militias pursued them relentlessly across the border. With the expulsion of Somaliland administration from the region, the **SSC swiftly established a regional administration**, a move subsequently endorsed by the Somali Federal Government in October. While armed clashes between Somaliland and SSC forces ceased following the August 25th showdown, sporadic skirmishes have erupted along border communities, reflecting lingering tensions stemming from the conflict and Somaliland's defeat.

Despite the relative calm, there has been a notable **absence of dialogue** between the two parties to negotiate peace or address the issue of detained combatants. Both sides remain entrenched along their respective borders, their militaries poised for potential resumption of hostilities at any moment, underscoring the fragility of the current peace and the urgent need for constructive engagement to avert further bloodshed and foster lasting reconciliation.

In addition to the multitude of crises gripping Somaliland, the political sphere has been marred by **conflicts surrounding the election process**. Discord among political factions has hindered the organization of timely elections, undermined the democratic process and fostered unrest among the populace. At one point, tensions escalated to the extent that armed militias were formed, taking refuge in the Ga'anlibah mountains, and launching sporadic attacks on government facilities. While these militias were eventually disbanded and reintegrated into society through the efforts of traditional leaders, their emergence underscored the deep-seated divisions precipitated by election-related disputes. The failure to reach consensus on electoral matters has exacerbated **political polarization** and eroded public confidence in the region's political institutions. Despite agreements reached between the government and opposition parties regarding the scheduling of elections for November 13, 2024, lingering confusion and discord persist regarding the revision of election laws and internal strife within the election commission. Opposition factions assert that the president is exploiting these unresolved issues to prolong his term in office.

The contextual factors outlined above exerted some influence on the execution of ISF program, albeit without deemed significant overall effect. Notably, the conflict in the Sool region impacted staff mobility, leading to limited travel from February to May. Heightened security concerns during this period necessitated a cautious stance, prioritizing the safety of personnel and minimizing potential risks associated with movement.

Moreover, the lingering drought indirectly and communities' focus on addressing pressing issues like livestock management affected program implementation. Communities diverted their attention and resources towards immediate survival needs. This resulted in constraints on community participation in program activities, such as awareness campaigns and meetings. Also, the heavy rainfall and rapidly rising river water levels in October led to severe flooding that caused farmers not to harvest the expected amount. The consecutive rains also delayed the construction of water canals in mountainous areas where the rain and run-off could destroy the newly constructed canals and the gabion boxes installed in gully-affected areas of the arable lands.

Adaptations, such as restricted staff travel and accommodating flexibility in community engagement, were implemented to navigate prevailing conditions while ensuring progress towards program objectives. Partners demonstrated resilience by adjusting their approaches in consultation with communities, capitalizing on opportune times for engagement to mitigate potential negative impacts stemming from contextual challenges.

Partners, projects and beneficiaries

In 2023, the ISF programme in Somaliland included **six projects**. Five of them were implemented by long-term partners. The sixth project with a new partner YOVENCO was in the planning phase.

Project name	Timeline	Partner organization	Area/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
Accelerating efforts to combat FGM and early marriage	2023–25	Network against FGM in Somaliland (NAFIS)	Togdheer and Sanaag region
Improving women's livelihood opportunities in fishing industry in Berbera	2023–25	Youth Volunteers for Development and Environment Conservation (YOVENCO)	Berbera town in Sahil region

The table below summarises the people who directly participated in ISF Somaliland programme activities in 2023, by age, gender, and their 'role' or position within the community and/or project implementation. Altogether, **9,480 people** participated in ISF programme activities in Somaliland in 2023, 56% of whom were female, and 145 were people with disabilities. Close to 52,000 final beneficiaries' (of whom 93% girls/women) lives are expected to improve due to the programme interventions.

Direct beneficiaries reached in 2023	female minors	female adults	male minors	male adults	TOTAL	% female	people w disability
community volunteers	30	14	23	8	75	59 %	0
farmers		550		550	1 100	50 %	55
health professionals		18		22	40	45 %	0
officials		14		6	20	70 %	0
parents	721	863	666	774	3 024	52 %	53
political leaders		12		40	52	23 %	0
religious leaders				207	207	0 %	3
school children	314		570		884	36 %	4
traditional leaders				120	120	0 %	1
women groups		2 431	40	967	3 438	71 %	26
youth		315		205	520	61 %	5
TOTAL direct beneficiaries	1 065	4 217	1 299	2 899	9 480	56 %	147

While all ISF partners had direct **beneficiaries with disabilities**, only one partner was trained on disability inclusion, and three had plans to promote participation of PwD. Systematic training of ISF Somaliland partners on disability inclusion has been postponed several times, due to COVID-19 pandemic and difficulties in finding a qualified local trainer.

ISF advocacy, networking, stakeholder relations and capacity building

In Somaliland, collaboration with the **line ministries** (Ministry of Planning and National Development and Ministry of Employment, Social, and Family Affairs) is crucial for effective programme implementation. ISF country team regularly engaged with these ministries by providing updates and participating in coordination meetings, offering insights and updates on ongoing projects and initiatives. Furthermore, ISF and especially its local partners extended collaboration with **regional authorities** in ISF target regions, attending at regional coordination meetings, seeking their input and support, providing updates on project progress and consulting on implementation strategies.

ISF's Grants Manager and Fingo's Partnership Advisor (both based at ISF Nairobi office) visited Somaliland and met with **local and international NGOs and local companies** to learn from their interventions. Together with ISF's country team, they visited Save the Children's office and staff who presented SC's livelihood, GBV and private sector interventions. Additionally, the team had the opportunity to explore the **Small and Medium Enterprise (SME) development initiatives of Dahabshiil and Telesom**. These initiatives are lifelines for poor communities, offering access to crucial financial support in the form of grants and loans.

Related to the **UN Trust Fund to end Violence against Women** funded end-FGM project in Somaliland in 2020–2022, ISF was invited in a Grantee Co-Regional Learning Exchange in Nairobi

in December. ISF's Hargeisa-based Senior Adviser on Gender-based Violence represented ISF, sharing lessons learnt from ISF's project and co-facilitating a session.

In 2023, ISF Somaliland organized a series of **training initiatives** to equip the partners with tools and knowledge to effectively document program impacts, communicate success stories, and drive meaningful change within their communities. With the acquisition of cameras and drone cameras, entrusted to the custodian of one of the partners, partners were empowered to produce high-quality photos and videos that illustrate the changes brought by their initiatives. As a result, there has been a noticeable improvement in the quality and quantity of photos and videos. In addition to visual documentation, partners also received training on leveraging social media platforms, particularly TikTok, to effectively communicate program impacts. Furthermore, the training offered participants a comprehensive understanding of key concepts and techniques in report writing, storytelling, and photography.

Moreover, partners underwent OMBEA (digital group audio response tool for survey data collection) refresher training, focusing on the utilization of the devices to streamline the collection and analysis of project data. With a renewed understanding of the reporting protocols, partners are now adept at harnessing OMBEA devices to gather accurate, thus facilitating evidence-based decision-making and program evaluation.

Additionally, ISF extended support to its new partner, YOVENCO, through training sessions that familiarized them with ISF's program approach and reporting templates. Serving as an induction into ISF's project implementation framework, these sessions equipped YOVENCO with the requisite knowledge and tools to effectively collaborate with ISF and align their strategies with program objectives.

Furthermore, ISF provided strategic planning support to ADO by facilitating the development of a comprehensive five-year strategic plan. Through the engagement of qualified consultants, ADO successfully formulated a robust strategy document that will serve as a roadmap for guiding organizational activities and achieving long-term objectives.

GOAL: Women and girls' bodily integrity and livelihood resilience has strengthened

Percentage of targeted parents who have and/or are willing to reject FGM

Within two out of three projects reporting against this indicator, there was increase in willingness to reject FGM – most significantly among men: from 31% to 37% among female and from 19% up to 41% among male SOYDAVO project beneficiaries; and from 27% to 32% among female and from 25% up to 34% BVO project beneficiaries. Among YPEER project beneficiaries, in turn, there was decrease from 25% to 23% among female and from 30% to 25% among male beneficiaries.

Public declarations to abandon FGM in the last 12 months

Within the Soydavo and YPEER projects, a total of 11 public declarations materialized, where religious leaders publicly addressed their stand against FGM through TV debates, radio

discussions, and sermons. BVO, in turn, counts the number of community members who committed to public anti-FGM declarations, which reached 1620 in 2023.

Percentage of targeted women who have experienced partner violence often or sometimes in past 12 months

Within the Soydavo-led project alone reporting against this indicator in the Somaliland programme, the percentage decreased from 50% to 38%, presumably due to regular trainings and sensitizations where women learnt to label abusive behaviour as violence and hence standing against it.

Positive change in targeted wo/men's resilience response to shocks and stressors and savings capacity

With ADO, ISF piloted a qualitative evaluation method to assess beneficiaries' resilience to climate shocks and stressors. The growing seasons in 2023 were significantly easier than in 2021-22, which partly contributed to the good results. The evaluation findings presented in the separate box below show that the project has significantly improved resilience to dry seasons and floods in the communities: of the targeted farmers, 87% reported that their livelihood resilience is improved, and 98% reported increase in production and crop diversification (from 5 to 12 crops). Families can survive in the critical months of the year by storing food. The crop productivity increased between 30% and 200%, depending on the crop, and 94% of the respondents reported a major increase in the sales of crops and honey.

ADO evaluation verifying positive change in resilience response to shocks and stressors

Improved access to seeds, water and erosion control: The project rehabilitated and constructed about 8 km of irrigation canals and 4 main water storage points in Sanaag, where 99% of women and men now receive sufficiently irrigation water throughout the year (*Output 5.1*). Better access to water increases number of harvests and productivity, hence, profits from sales. Both project areas are prone to severe erosion caused by alternating extreme droughts or excessive floods, deforestation and overgrazing. Rehabilitation of the irrigation systems included construction of soil bunds (3 km) and provision of gabion boxes (465) that conserved the fertile soil, rehabilitated land, and controlled runoff water (*Output 5.1*). 95% of the respondents reported that the project reduced soil erosion in the communities.

To improve crop security, farmers were given quality seeds and trained in Participatory Varietal Selection (PVS) of seeds for future seed banking activities. A total of 247 women and 321 men were trained in seed selection, germination and proper planting and they were given quality seeds that they will return to local seed bank after the next harvest (*Output 4.2*).

Change in agriculture methods and farming practices: The project has created a peer-to-peer learning environment and promoted experimental learning. 86% of the farmers have applied new methods and practices (e.g. minimum tillage, intercropping, crop diversification, seasonal planting, integrated pest management, irrigation management) introduced by the project, which increased crop yields, soil fertility and increased incomes. The project also trained extension agents and established farmer field schools to improve cooperation between agriculture extension and farmers.

The project shared quarterly weather forecast with farmers and FSNAU, 39% of women and 56% of men (baseline 25 and 5%) now use weather information services to assess the best planting time (*Output 5.1.*). The number of crops farmers grow increased from 5 to 12 and crop rotation increased number of harvests. Besides, the farmers can now produce honey. Also, the farmers have adopted the market information system that helps them understanding market demands and selling in better price (*Output 4.2.*).

Self-help groups (SHG) boost women’s livelihoods and diversify family income sources: All women reported that SHGs are important for their economic independence, and the system has increased community resilience to climate threats. In 2023, the total monetary value saved within the SHGs (138 members) was \$ 3059 (*Output 4.2.*). Women used loans to start new business or expanding existing shops (23 small businesses), 17 women invested in livestock and 27 women bought better seeds to their farms. Women applied new farming practices and marketing skills more often than men. As a result, a few women generated more income than men and their status in the community and family has improved. For example, 42 women contributed money to the irrigation canal rehabilitation and 11 women paid their children's school fees and medication.

Recommendation to sustain livelihood resilience:

- Strengthen Climate Adaptive Village committees and help them to prepare manuals and procedures for the water infrastructures, farming operations, soil and water conservations.
- Strengthen the cooperatives with business planning, marketing, and links to private financial institutions. Functional cooperative can support their members and maintain the irrigation infrastructure and equipment provided.
- Improve women’s and men’s access to professional advisory services: the project should link the farmers to Burao and Sanaag Universities to receive professional training and advice, and to the Ministry of Agriculture, which sends experts and extension agents to the sites.
- The project should establish the seed multiplication centres and allocate farms for seed multiplication and testing.
- Build up an adaptation model and capacity building programme. Some farmers felt that the required changes in the farming systems were too huge to comprehend and apply without systematic, long-term programme. ISF and ADO should use their experiences and develop a complete transformation model with materials in Somali and digital or visual materials for illiterate. This should be implemented in collaboration with government and academic actors.

The programme outcome specific chapters that follow describe the key activities during the reporting period, related outputs that are expected to lead to the respective outcome, and the progress considering the programme output and outcome indicators (see Annex Result Matrix).

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 VAWG, as well as to involve gatekeepers who are trusted by the local community. Hence, ISF and its partners

organized capacity-building initiatives to enhance duty bearers' knowledge of VAWG. **207 religious and 120 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.

According to the follow-up data from three projects, the **percentage of male religious and traditional leaders with knowledge/attitudes to mitigate FGM** (*ind. 1.1-1*) has increased within all the three projects reporting against this indicator and was between 30–69% (25–44% in 2022), and to **mitigate other forms of VAWG** (*ind. 1.1-2*) between 61–76% (52–69% in 2022). According to the perceptions of community members on the role of duty bearers in mitigating VAWG (*ind. 1-2*), several religious and traditional leaders have **publicly spoken out against VAWG**, disseminated messages of zero tolerance for FGM and early marriage, and actively engaged with the community to address these issues: For example, within the YPEER project in Erigavo District, community members reported witnessing a total of seven instances through TV debates, radio discussions, and Juma sermons. Specifically, religious leaders were actively involved in addressing GBV, while traditional leaders exhibited less frequent public engagement. The BVO project team reported that leaders conducted four sessions in rural areas, where early marriage rates are high rate.

While health and social workers play an important role in the eradication of FGM in Somaliland, majority of them lack the knowledge and attitudes necessary to mitigate the practice. Hence, ISF programme – mainly through the YPEER project – addresses the need for more education and awareness-raising, resources and support from colleagues and supervisors. The **percentage of knowledge/attitudes to mitigate FGM** among the 40 trained medical/healthcare workers (*ind. 1.1-3*) increased from 35% to 41% (35% in 2022), and to **mitigate other forms of VAWG** (*ind. 1.1-4*) from 66% to 72%.

According to the perceptions of community members on the role of duty bearers in mitigating VAWG (*ind. 1-2*), health workers in both target districts **helped survivors**, including psychosocial support, medical care, referral services, and legal assistance. Judicial professionals in the Sheekh and Erigavo districts assisted survivors with legal remedies such as restraining orders, legal aid, and witness support. Despite challenges related to cultural norms and insufficient legal protections, efforts were made to address gaps in support for survivors and prevent future cases.

The YPEER project also supports around 50 regional and district political leaders and councilors to participate in advocacy efforts to end all forms of FGM and VAWG. While the Sheekh district lacks active political engagement on VAWG issues, in Erigavo district, four leaders publicly opposed FGM during events like the 16 Days of Activism, albeit with limited visibility. Despite no legislative progress in 2023, in YPEER target location, 63% of **political leaders had knowledge/attitudes to mitigate FGM** (*ind. 1.1-5*) and 78% had positive attitudes toward **reducing other forms VAWG** (*ind. 1.1-6*).

The NAFIS-led project undertook a different angle, fostering joint action among duty bearers, civil society, and women's groups to eradicate VAWG. Via capacity-building sessions, coordination meetings, and joint forums, these entities have worked to raise awareness and combat VAWG. Engagement with religious leaders and validation workshops have garnered **support for the Anti-**

FGM Policy (*ind. 1-1*). Twenty parliamentarians, encompassing both executive and legislative branches, have publicly advocated for legislative measures and policies to address VAWG. There is also a significant improvement in the engagement and actions of regional authorities in addressing VAWG.

In the NAFIS project target regions Togdheer and Sanaag, regional authorities forged collaborative partnerships with local CSOs and Women's Rights Organizations (WROs) and Community-Based Organizations (CLAs). The partnership involves sharing information, joint initiatives, policy development, and capacity-building. Five ministries have been engaged in both Erigavo and Burao including the Ministry of Employment, Social Affairs and Family, Ministry of Health Development, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Higher Education and Ministry of Religious Affairs and Endowment.

Outcome 2: Women and girls collectively claim their rights

To strengthen their power over their own bodies and lives, ISF educates women and girls on the harmful effects of FGM and other forms of VAWG, as well as their legal and human rights to bodily integrity. In Somaliland, ISF and partners work with community level anti-FGM committees consisting of local women and men; with schoolgirls and boys' clubs; and with women's self-help groups (SHG) – robust networks that engage women in peer support, income generation, capacity building and awareness raising. Altogether 314 girls, 315 female youth and 2431 SHG women were reached directly.

Anti-FGM committees and school clubs organized public campaigns during International Day of Zero Tolerance for Female Genital Mutilation in February. Anti-FGM Committees issued public declarations to stop FGM, carried out hundreds of household visits, handled and reported further cases of FGM and other forms of violence that occurred within the community. School clubs applied drama and plays in raising awareness against early marriage and FGM.

According to the follow-up data collected, the **percentage of targeted women and girls with knowledge on right to bodily integrity** (*ind. 2.1-1*), especially FGM increased significantly within the two reporting projects: from 49% to 74% within SHG women in Soydavo project, and from 40% to 43% within schoolgirls in BVO project. Regarding knowledge to stand against early marriage, too, the schoolgirls demonstrated improved level of knowledge (from 76% to 79%), while for the boys the improvement was even more visible: from 36% to 45% regarding FGM, and from 58% to 60% regarding early marriage. Lastly, the percentage of SHG women with knowledge on partner violence increase from 68% to 84%. The baselines collected for the NAFIS project that started in 2023 indicate that 53% of the SHG women working in the higher SHG Cluster Association level have knowledge and to reject FGM, 82% to reject early marriage, and 68% to challenge partner violence.

Change in knowledge and attitudes does not turn into changes in behaviour overnight. By raising women's awareness on their bodily integrity and legal rights, ISF aims to **increase reporting of VAWG cases** (*ind. 2-1*). Percentage of women who reported to relevant authorities (if they had experienced violence), increased from 44% to 45% within SOYDAVO project beneficiaries. In the YPEER project, quantitative data was not collected for this indicator, but the focus group discussions indicate that there was notable ease attributed to increased awareness and

confidentiality measures in Erigavo, while Sheekh and Togdheer presented a more complex scenario influenced by fear of retaliation. The smaller rural villages and districts in Sheekh and

Togdheer have deeper-rooted challenges in combating harmful practices, while in the larger town of Erigavo, the presence of various service providers and institutions, including the Regional Ministry of Employment, Social Affairs, and Families (MESAF), contributes to the increased ease observed. MESAF actively engages with the community by inviting them to meetings aimed at raising awareness on important issues.

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, ADO enhanced **women's basic business skills**, increased their access to finance and other assets and raised awareness on women's rights within 13 self-help groups (138 women). In these groups, women support each other and influence decision-making in cooperatives and community level, which boost their self-confidence and self-efficacy.

In ADO's project, women reported that they face significant disparities in starting a business or expanding it compared to men due to gender-based discrimination, cultural norms, and limited access to resources and education. Women are aware of the range of income-generating opportunities available to them, but it is important to understand the opportunities within a particular community. To strengthen their livelihood, women themselves find important financial literacy training, improving access to financial services, provision of mentorship and networking opportunities, investment in infrastructure, strengthening the role of SHGs and community organizations, and identification of new livelihood opportunities.

Women also reported that they employ various strategies to influence family decisions on expenditure. They take an active role in managing the family budget, sometimes seeking support from other family members, friends, or community organizations to advocate for their ideas and influence family decisions. All FGD participants agreed that due to the project activities, there has been a notable change in women's opportunities to have a say in family expenditure decisions. Women can express their needs more clearly, have financial literacy skills and new resources, which give them knowledge and power to participate in decision making. Women and men also better understand women's rights, which have paved way for women's role in decision-making processes, including in financial matters.

In ADO project, women's more active role in the cooperatives (29% of members are women) and Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) committees (38%) have expanded their sphere of influence in community level. For example, in Midhisho the cooperative chairperson is female and in another

cooperative, the treasury and the deputy chairperson are women. Before the project, women were not involved in any community-level bodies.

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 and boys in the communities where women's livelihoods are supported. One highlight from 2023 are the YPEER-led Boys against FGM (BAF) clubs, that engage boys and young men in actively working against the practice.

Within most projects collecting data for the indicator, progress was made regarding **knowledge and attitudes supportive of abandoning FGM** (*ind. 3.1-1*) and **partner violence** (*ind. 3.1-2*). While 38–45% of women and 28–33% men had attitudes supportive of abandoning FGM in 2022, in 2023 the range went from 34–67% for women and 32–68% for men. The biggest difference was recorded among Soydavo project, where the percentage increased with 28 percentage units among women and 40 percentage units among men. Regarding attitudes on partner violence, the 3-project range increased to 70–88% for women and 52–81% for men, while it was 64–84% for women and 49–78% for men in 2022. Here, too, the biggest improvement took place among Soydavo project male respondents (9 percentage units).

In the BVO project, ISF studied how the husbands of the 20 women trained in tailoring perceive women's participation in economic life. Based on the focus groups discussion, 71% of the husbands have changed the initially negative perception to encouraging one. The remaining 29% accept women's participation in trainings but do not allow women to work outside of home and do not consider their wives as business owners.

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

ISF supported seven women's self-help groups (138 women) that provide simple savings and loan services and a platform where women are trained, their **access to information and services is improved, and contacts with commercial actors are established** (*Ind. 4.2-1*). The implementation of the SHG model has fostered economic growth in the communities. According to the mid-term evaluation of the ADO project, 50 small businesses have been established or expanded through credits accessed from the SHG pool funds.

The ADO project trained women and men in marketing and crop selling, gave them market demand and price updates and connected them with major wholesalers in the nearest towns. In 2023, 84% of women and 93% of men (baseline 40% / 57%) **used market information** when planning business activities (*ind. 4.2-3*) which is a significant increase, especially for women. In Boodhley, farmers used market information channels to discover that watermelon markets in Djibouti are promising and they pooled resources to transport and sell watermelons in Djibouti. As an outcome, the **value of sales from various crops** more than tripled from 2022 (*ind. 4-1*): 94% of the respondents reported a major increase in the sales of crops and honey.

Aligned with ISF programmatic approach to **mainstream VAWG awareness raising in livelihood support and vice versa**, in VAWG focused projects, 30 women were trained in poultry farming and given ten chickens each, 30 women were trained in providing henna tattoo and makeup

services and 35 men graduated as masons. Also, Soydavo and BVO trained 50 SHG women in tailoring and literacy, numeracy, and basic business skills. Together with ISF, the two project teams aim to create profitable business on **reusable menstrual pads**. Recognizing the economic barriers faced by women in accessing affordable menstrual hygiene products, ISF conceptualized this initiative as both a skill-building exercise and a sexual and reproductive health intervention. In 2023, focus was on product development, testing materials and mapping material providers. Women can now calculate daily business transactions and use eMoney services. They have produced first marketable prototypes from locally available materials. They did not yet get incomes from the menstrual pads (*ind. 4-1*).

ISF and YOVENCO finalised a project plan for a new livelihood project that starts implementing in January 2024. The planning phase included problem and objective tree participatory workshops, value chain analysis of fisheries sector in Somaliland, baseline study and negotiations with key stakeholders. The project will enhance **women's participation and livelihood in the fisheries sector** in Berbera town through three development lines: 1) strengthening the profitability of women's businesses in Berbera fish market; 2) increasing employment of women in fish processing factories; and 3) preventing violence and harassment of women at home and at workplace.

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

In 2023, ISF had one climate resilience project (ADO-led) running in four villages in Erigavo and Burao districts. ADO developed a **climate literacy programme** that uses drama and songs to distribute information about the seriousness of the climate change and ways to mitigate its impact. For example, a team of youth created an engaging and educational climate change play that sheds light on the concept of climate change, its affects, and positive actions in the context of the local community. The team also composed an interactive song that inspires positive climate change actions and behaviours. The method will be piloted in 2024.

The project planted first vegetables and melons to the **greenhouse prototype** developed by the project. There are no durable greenhouses for sale in the country and the greenhouse prototype withstood well the harsh weather conditions, especially wind, torrential rains, and extreme heat. However, the expensive sheet used in the prototype constitutes a challenge.

ADO cooperated with various actors within the ISF project. Sheikh Technical Veterinary School and Reference Centre University (ISTVS) sent their **graduate students as interns** to get practical field training when participating in the project implementation. The project works closely and exchanges information with agriculture line ministries, the National Disaster Preparedness and Food Reserve (NADFOR) programme and the local government offices in project target areas. 95% of the respondents reported that the ADO project **reduced soil erosion** in the communities (*ind. 5-2*), although most of the agriculture and grazing land is still prone to erosion. The erosion mitigation activities have protected 23 ha of land (*ind. 5.1-2*). The **crop productivity** increased between 30% and 200%, depending on the crop.; while camel, cow, sheep and goat milk productivity increased slightly (*ind. 5-3*) and 98% of the farmers report increase in production in the mid-term evaluation. As a result of improved access to water, **crop diversification** increased from

5 to 12 crops. In Soydavo project the chickens produced 8-10 eggs per day in the last two months of the year (*ind. 5-1*).

5. Programme performance in Ethiopia

Operating environment

In 2023, Ethiopia faced a complex and multifaceted operational context characterised by **conflict, climate shocks, and a significant number of refugees**. These factors contributed to a significant increase in the number of internally displaced persons (IDP) and heightened the need for urgent humanitarian assistance. IOM reported a staggering 4.4 million IDPs in the country as of June 2023 which reflect the immense scale of internal displacement crisis.

In the Amhara region of [Ethiopia](#), fighting between a militia group and Ethiopia's National Defence Force (ENDF) intensified. The Fano militia, which draws volunteers from the local population, took control of several towns in the region. The unrest quickly became Ethiopia's most serious security crisis since a two-year war (2020 to 2022) in the Tigray region, which borders Amhara. Ethiopia's Council of Ministers declared a State of Emergency in the Amhara region after its leader said he was no longer able to contain a surge in violence.

Ethiopia was not only affected by conflicts but also by **skyrocketing inflation rates**, which has a devastating effect on the country's economy and increased the vulnerability of its people. A growing number of people are experiencing food insecurity and financial hardship because of the rising cost of goods and services which makes it harder for households to meet their basic needs.

Furthermore, **climate shocks, such as floods**, also impacted Ethiopia in 2023. These extreme weather events had devastating effects on agricultural production, leading to crop failure, livestock losses and reduced access to water resources. The effect of climate change further exacerbated food insecurity and contributes to the displacement of communities.

Partners, projects and beneficiaries

ISF published a call for local partners in early 2023 to implement projects in the Somali region. Altogether 64 organizations submitted their proposal, of which 33 were eligible. A careful selection process including concept and organizational capacity assessment was conducted, ending with face-to-face partner interviews. Finally, the selection committee identified three partners with whom the planning phase was kicked off in December.

Project working title	Timeline	Partner organization	Area/region
Building resilience in women and girls to end harmful practices and violence	2024–25	Community Action Against Poverty (CAAP)	Somali region, Fafan zone, Harawo district
Empowering women through sustainable livelihoods for economic prosperity	2024–25	Horn of Africa Voluntary Youth Committee (HAVOYOCO)	Somali region, Fafan zone, Harawo district
Promoting resources and opportunities for women’s empowerment and resilience	2024–25	Relief and Development for Vulnerable (RDV)	Somali region, Jarar zone, Degahbour district

ISF advocacy, networking, stakeholder relations and capacity building

Establishing the country office, presence in the Somali region (Jijiga), building ISF brand and key stakeholder relations was a key priority for the ISF Ethiopia Country Director appointed in May. In mid-December, ISF officially launched the programme in Jijiga with the newly selected partners, local authorities, and the Programme Director visiting from Helsinki. In the same week, the ISF Addis Ababa office hosted an office warming party, inviting key stakeholders from current and prospective donors and peer organizations.

In cooperation with the Embassy of Finland, ISF participated in the **16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence** campaign organised by the EU. ISF also participated in the regional conference organised by The Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit GmbH (GIZ) titled “Improving the prevention of FGM in Eastern Africa”. This facilitated exposure to GIZ work in Eastern Africa and created an opportunity for future cooperation in Somali region. ISF also closely cooperated with the Somali Regional Bureau of Women and Children Affairs and other relevant sector offices both at a regional level and lower administrative levels. For example, ISF advocated and initiated the establishment of a Regional Alliance on Ending Child Marriage and FGM.

6. Communications, advocacy and private fundraising in Finland

In 2023, ISF's communication efforts aimed at two main goals: producing engaging communication about the foundation's work on women's and girls' rights in East Africa and creating a new narrative about Africa among Finnish audiences.

The primary communication channels in 2023 continued to be our **social media platforms** Instagram, Facebook, and TikTok. Instagram and Facebook play a specific role in reaching adult Finnish audiences interested in ISF's work and East African topics. In addition to the aforementioned goals, TikTok also serves as an important platform for human rights education,

and the content produced on the platform addresses broader themes of bodily integrity and women's and girls' rights.

A significant focus area in 2023 was the development of **search engine optimization**: through systematic optimization efforts and investment in a training program on the topic, organic search traffic increased by 70 percent.

During the year, four significant **campaigns targeting the Finnish audience** were executed, each with specific objectives in communications, marketing, and direct fundraising. On the International Day of the Girl in the fall of 2023, ISF made a new, innovative initiative and submitted an application to the Finnish Ministry of Education with the goal of including female genitalia in UNESCO's World Heritage Sites (i.e., under UNESCO's protection). The aim of the application is to stimulate public discussion about the bodily integrity of women and girls and what valuable assets deserve and receive the strongest possible protection.

In addition to the thematic campaigns, ISF campaigned alongside the **Fingo coalition** during the Finnish parliamentary elections and government budget negotiations to raise awareness about the importance of development cooperation in the discussion. ISF also participated actively in the work of Fingo's 'Food Security' and 'Taxation and Global Justice' working groups, for example, commenting the evaluation report of Finland's Taxation for Development programme and contributing to the advocacy work on promoting the UN Tax Convention. ISF supported Finnwatch's programme on decent work that focuses on labour rights issues in global supply chains. ISF participated in the discussions on the EU's Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence Directive (CSDDD). ISF was an active member of the Impact working group coordinated by Finnfund, which promotes cooperation between organizations, researchers and companies in issues related to private sector impact on SDGs.

Private fundraising remained somewhat challenging throughout the year 2023 due to humanitarian crises in the world and economic realities in Finland. However, campaign results and donor loyalty were close to budgeted. New donation concept "Väki Vahva", produced with help from a marketing and communication partner, showed signs of success especially end of fiscal year in fundraising and brand awareness alike, resulting to successful campaigning around International Day of the Girl Child and Christmas. Unlike planned initially, F2F operations were not realised 2023, instead new donor acquisition was based on larger telemarketing campaigns with a vendor and inhouse digital marketing and campaigning.

ISF 2022-25 DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME RESULTS MATRIX: KENYA

RESULTS MATRIX	CODE	INDICATORS	MEANS OF VERIFICATION ETC.	PROJECTS WITH THE INDICATOR	BASELINE JAN 2022		FOLLOW-UP DEC-2022		FOLLOW-UP DEC-2023	
					female	male	female	male	female	male
GOAL: Women and girls' bodily integrity and livelihood resilience has strengthened in ISF programme areas	G1	% 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 %	82 %	79 %
				Manga	74 %	65 %	71 %	62 %	73 %	64 %
	G2	Public declarations to abandon FGM in the last 12 months (Kenia/nr of families who engage in declarations; Somaliland/nr of relig. leader commitments)	Project monitoring reports	CECOME	n.a.		93		93	
				Manga	n.a.		64		97	
	G3	% 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 %	-	29 %	-
				Manga	45 %	-	53 %	-	37 %	-
				BWCBO	n.a.	-	32 %	-		-
				NNWS	n.a.	-	41 %	-	53 %	-
	G4	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	BWCBO	n.a.		n.a.		n.a.	
				NNWS	n.a.		n.a.		n.a.	
	G5	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 %	-	31 %	-
				NNWS	80 %	-	28 %	-	48 %	-
G6	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 %	-	68 %	-	
			NNWS	71 %	-	55 %	-	55 %	-	
OUTCOME 1: Judicial and moral duty bearers take actions to mitigate VAWG	1-1	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		narrative report	
	1-2	Perceptions of community members in target communities on the engagement of duty bearers in mitigating VAWG	Annual FGDs, inhouse by partners	CECOME	n.a.		narrative report		narrative report	
Output 1.1.: Judicial and moral duty bearers have knowledge and attitudes to mitigate VAWG	1.1-1	% of targeted <i>religious leaders</i> with knowledge/attitudes to mitigate FGM	Annual standard poll using OMBEA digital audio response system, inhouse by ISF and partners.	CECOME	n.a.	n.a.	88 %	91 %	94 %	94 %
				Manga	n.a.	n.a.	91 %	86 %	85 %	95 %
	1.1-2	...to mitigate other forms of VAWG	Annual standard poll using OMBEA digital audio response system, inhouse by ISF and partners.	CECOME	n.a.	n.a.	100 %	100 %	99 %	98 %
				Manga	n.a.	n.a.	90 %	92 %	93 %	99 %
	1.1-3	% of targeted <i>traditional leaders</i> 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 %	90 %	89 %
				Manga	59 %	54 %	92 %	88 %	93 %	88 %
	1.1-4	...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 %	98 %	98 %
				Manga	75 %	63 %	89 %	83 %	97 %	96 %
1.1-5	% of targeted <i>medical/healthcare workers</i> 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 %	96 %	97 %	
			Manga	56 %	70 %	96 %	86 %	93 %	89 %	

ANNEX_Results_matrix_programme_2023

	1.1-6	...to mitigate other forms of VAWG	Annual standard poll using OMBEA digital audio response system, inhouse by ISF and partners.	CECOME	76 %	76 %	92 %	94 %	98 %	96 %
				Manga	89 %	77 %	100 %	98 %	100 %	100 %
OUTCOME 2: Women and girls collectively claim their rights	2-1	% 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 %	-	25 %	-
				Manga	11 %	-	26 %	-	30 %	-
				BWCBO	n.a.	-	23 %	-	19 %	-
				NNWS	19 %	-	30 %	-	28 %	-
Output 2.1: Women and girls have knowledge and means to collectively claim their rights	2.1-1	% of women and girls 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 %	83 %	80 %
				CECOME ARP	59 %	-	82 %	-	81 %	-
				Manga school	60 %	57 %	84 %	86 %	81 %	77 %
				Manga ARP	54 %	-	86 %	-	81 %	-
OUTCOME 3: Women's sphere of influence has expanded	3.1	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	BWCBO	89 %	-	95 %	-	97 %	-
				NNWS	96 %	-	95 %	-	97 %	-
				CECOME/Manga: banana fibre	n.a.	-	n.a.	-	n.a.	-
Output 3.1: Women and men have attitudes supportive of women's rights	3.1-1	% 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 %	93 %	92 %
				Manga	51 %	44 %	93 %	89 %	93 %	91 %
	3.1-2	% 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 %	94 %	95 %
				Manga	65 %	65 %	90 %	84 %	96 %	96 %
				BWCBO	n.a.	n.a.	86 %	-	91 %	-
				NNWS	n.a.	n.a.	97 %	-	92 %	-
OUTCOME 4: Women benefit from services and networks that support livelihood reform	4-1	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)		n.a.		
				NNWS	AIVs KES 944200; mushrooms KES 0	AIVs KES 472165 mushrooms KES 44050	AIVs KES 662 285 mushrooms KES 44 050			
				CECOME/Manga: banana fibre	n.a.	-	n.a.	-	0	-
	4-2	% 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 %	-	95 %	-
				NNWS	0 %	-	n.a.	-	96 %	-
				CECOME/Manga: banana fibre	n.a.	-	n.a.	-	37 %	-
Output 4.1: Women have improved access to skills	4.1-1	Nr of peer advisers who give training and advice	Project monitoring reports, partner records	BWCBO	9	0	9	0	10	
				NNWS	8	2	10	1	14	3

ANNEX_Results_matrix_programme_2023

development and innovation services	4.1-2	% of targeted women applying new business or vocational skills to generate income	Midterm/endline individual interviews, by external consultant	CECOME/Manga: banana fibre	n.a.	-	n.a.	-	0 %	-
Output 4.2: Women have improved access to finance and markets	4.2-1	Nr of targeted women using savings and loan services in past 12 months	Cooperative and SHG registers	BWCBO	240	-	270	-		-
				NNWS	300	-	265 (100%)	-	284 (78%)	-
				CECOME/Manga: banana fibre	n.a.	-	n.a.	-	36 (61%)	-
	4.2-2	% of direct beneficiaries whose access to productive inputs is improved (seed/fertilizer/pesticide, value addition)	Registers and annual standard poll using OMBEA digital audio response system, inhouse by ISF and partners	BWCBO	20 %	-	20 %	-	29 %	-
				NNWS	52 %	-	66 %	-	29 %	-
				CECOME/Manga: banana fibre	n.a.	-	n.a.	-	Value add.tech. 0%	-
	4.2-3	% of women and men 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 %	-	70 %	-
				NNWS	65 %	-	77 %	-	83 %	-
CECOME/Manga: banana fibre				n.a.	-	n.a.	-	36 %	-	
OUTCOME 5: Improved capacity of farm systems to mitigate and adapt to climate change	5-1	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		n.a.	
				NNWS	AIVs 18,884 kg, mushroom 0 kg		AIVs 9532 kg, mushroom 672 kg		AIVs 11,657 kg, mushroom 803 kg	
	5-2	% 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.	n.a.	n.a.
	5-3	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.	n.a.	n.a.
Output 5.1: Women and men apply climate smart technologies and practices	5.1-1	% 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.		n.a.	
				NNWS	n.a.		n.a.		n.a.	
	5.1-2	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		11 ha		18 ha	
	5.1-3	% 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 %	-	46 %	-

ANNEX_Results_matrix_programme_2023

ISF 2022-25 DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME RESULTS MATRIX: SOMALILAND

RESULTS MATRIX	CODE	INDICATORS	MEANS OF VERIFICATION ETC.	PROJECTS WITH THE INDICATOR	BASELINE DEC-2022		FOLLOW-UP DEC-2023	
					female	male	female	male
					GOAL: Women and girls' bodily integrity and livelihood resilience has strengthened in ISF programme areas	G1	% 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.
BVO	27 %	25 %	32 %	34 %				
YPEER	25 %	30 %	23 %	25 %				
G2	Public declarations to abandon FGM in the last 12 months (Kenia/nr of families who engage in declarations; Somaliland/nr of relig. leader commitments)	Project monitoring reports	SOYDAVO	n.a.		2 declar.		
			BVO	n.a.		1620 people		
			YPEER	n.a.		9 declar.		
			NAFIS	n.a.		n.a.		
G3	% 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 %		-	38 %	-
G4	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.		narrative report		
G5	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	YOVENCO	n.a.		Saving balance: 10% \$100-500 26% \$10- 99 64% no balance, not members of a group		
			ADO	SLS 14,700 in 6 months		SLS 2,6 million in 12 months		
G6	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.		n.a.		
OUTCOME 1: Judicial and moral duty bearers take actions to mitigate VAWG	1-1	Laws, standard operating procedures, and action plans on VAWG mitigation prepared by government actors in past 12 months	Project monitoring reports	YPEER	narrative report		narrative report	
				NAFIS	n.a.		narrative report	
	1-2	Perceptions of community members in target communities on the engagement of duty bearers in mitigating VAWG	Annual FGDs, inhouse by partners	SOYDAVO	narrative report		narrative report	
				BVO	narrative report		narrative report	
1.1-1	% of targeted <i>religious & traditional leaders</i> with knowledge/attitudes to mitigate FGM	Annual standard poll using OMBEA digital audio response system, inhouse by ISF and partners.	SOYDAVO	-	44 %	-	69 %	
			BVO	-	44 %	-	48 %	
1.1-2	to mitigate other forms of VAWG	Annual standard poll using OMBEA digital audio	YPEER	-	25 %	-	30 %	
			SOYDAVO	-	65 %	-	76 %	
			BVO	-	69 %	-	73 %	

ANNEX_Results_matrix_programme_2023

Output 1.1.: Judicial and moral duty bearers have knowledge and attitudes to mitigate VAWG	1.1-2	...to mitigate other forms of VAWG	response system, inhouse by ISF and partners.	YOVENCO	n.a.	n.a.	tbc	tbc
				YPEER	-	52 %		61 %
	1.1-3	% of targeted <i>medical/healthcare workers</i> with knowledge/attitudes to mitigate FGM	Annual standard poll using OMBEA digital audio response system, inhouse by ISF and partners.	YPEER	35 %	-	41 %	-
	1.1-4	...to mitigate other forms of VAWG	Annual standard poll using OMBEA digital audio response system, inhouse by ISF and partners.	YPEER	66 %	-	72 %	-
	1.1-5	% of targeted <i>regional and district political leaders</i> and councilors with knowledge/attitudes to mitigate FGM (new 2023)	Annual standard poll using OMBEA digital audio response system, inhouse by ISF and partners.	YPEER	-	n.a.	-	63 %
	1.1-6	...to mitigate other forms of VAWG (new 2023)	Annual standard poll using OMBEA digital audio response system, inhouse by ISF and partners.	YOVENCO	n.a.	n.a.	tbc	tbc
				YPEER	-	n.a.	-	78 %
OUTCOME 2: Women and girls collectively claim their rights	2-1	% 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 %	-	45 %	-
Output 2.1: Women and girls have knowledge and means to collectively claim their rights	2.1-1	% of women and girls 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.	BVO/FGM	40 %	36 %	43 %	45 %
				NAFIS/FGM	n.a.	-	53 %	-
				SOYDAVO/FGM	49 %	-	74 %	-
				BVO/earlymarriage	76 %	58 %	78 %	69 %
				NAFIS/earlymarriage	n.a.	-	82 %	-
				SOYDAVO/IPV	68 %	-	84 %	-
				NAFIS/IPV	n.a.	-	68 %	-
OUTCOME 3: Women's sphere of influence has expanded	3-1	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		narrative report	
				YOVENCO	n.a.		Project baseline report	
				SOYDAVO	narrative report		Project baseline report	
				BVO	narrative report		narrative report	
Output 3.1: Women and men have attitudes supportive of women's rights	3.1-1	% of targeted parents 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 %	67 %	68 %
				BVO	45 %	29 %	50 %	36 %
				YPEER	38 %	33 %	34 %	32 %
	3.1-2	% 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 %	75 %	67 %
				YPEER	64 %	49 %	70 %	52 %
				ADO	86 %	78 %	88 %	81 %
				ADO	100-350 \$/person		400-1650 \$/person	

ANNEX_Results_matrix_programme_2023

OUTCOME 4: Women benefit from services and networks that support livelihood reform	4-1	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	YOVENCO	n.a.	Fish in kg: 20% 25-35t 14% 14-24t 42% 5-13t 20%: 0-5t 4% not sure		
				SOYDAVO	Eggs SLS 0	Eggs SLS 0		
				BVO	Tailored products SLS 0	Tailored products SLS 0		
	4-2	% 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 %	0 %	0 %
				SOYDAVO	0 %	0 %	0 %	0 %
	Output 4.1: Women have improved access to skills development and innovation services	4.1.2	% 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.	-	0	-
YOVENCO					n.a.	-	0	-
YPEER					n.a.	-	n.a.	-
ADO					140	-	138	-
Output 4.2: Women have improved access to finance and markets	4.2-1	Nr of targeted women and men using savings and loan services in past 12 months	Cooperative and SHG registers	YOVENCO	n.a.	-	Savings 24 SLS taken loan 0	
				ADO	9 %	23 %	45 %	58 %
	4.2-2	% of direct beneficiaries whose access to productive inputs is improved (seed/fertilizer/pesticide, value addition)	Registers and annual standard poll using OMBEA digital audio response system, inhouse by ISF and partners	YOVENCO	n.a.	Fish processing tech:0%		
				ADO	40 %	57 %	84 %	93 %
	4.2-3	% 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.	ADO	0	0	n.a.	n.a.
OUTCOME 5: Improved capacity of farm systems to mitigate and adapt to climate change	5-1	Production volumes of selected crops	Interviews with farmers and cooperative staff, registers, inhouse by ISF and partners.	SOYDAVO	0 eggs		8-10 eggs/day/family	
				ADO	100 %		Most agricultural and grazing land	
	5-2	% of agricultural and grazing land in target area affected by soil erosion	Photo/video using drones, inhouse by ISF and partners.	ADO	various products*		various products*	
	5-3	Productivity of crops and livestock production	Interviews with farmers and cooperative staff, registers, inhouse by ISF and partners.	ADO	various products*		various products*	

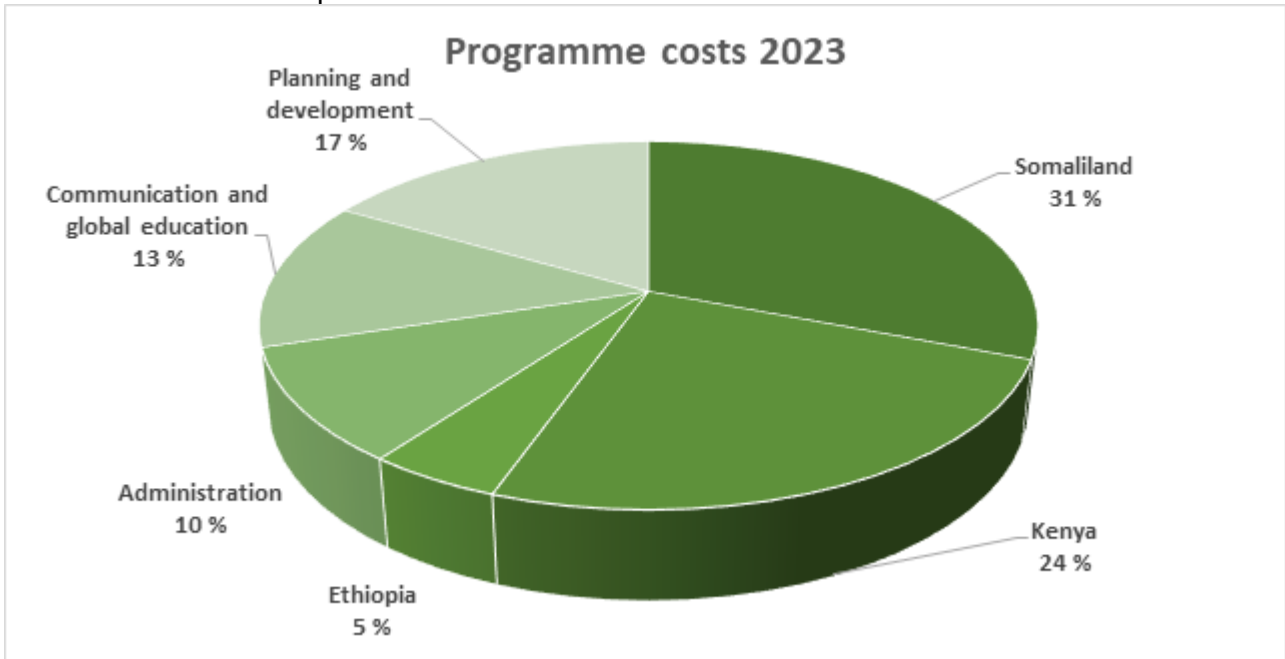
ANNEX_Results_matrix_programme_2023

Output 5.1: Women and men apply climate smart technologies and practices	5.1-1	% 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 %	65% of all famrs and 99% in Sanaag	
	5.1-2	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.		23 ha	
	5.1-3	% 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 %	39 %	56 %

*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

7. Programme costs and funding

The total costs of the programme in 2023 were 3 123 676 €. 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 83% of the costs, 9% was covered by private fundraising, 7 % by EU-funding and 1 % by foundations or other sources.

