

2024



ANNUAL REPORT

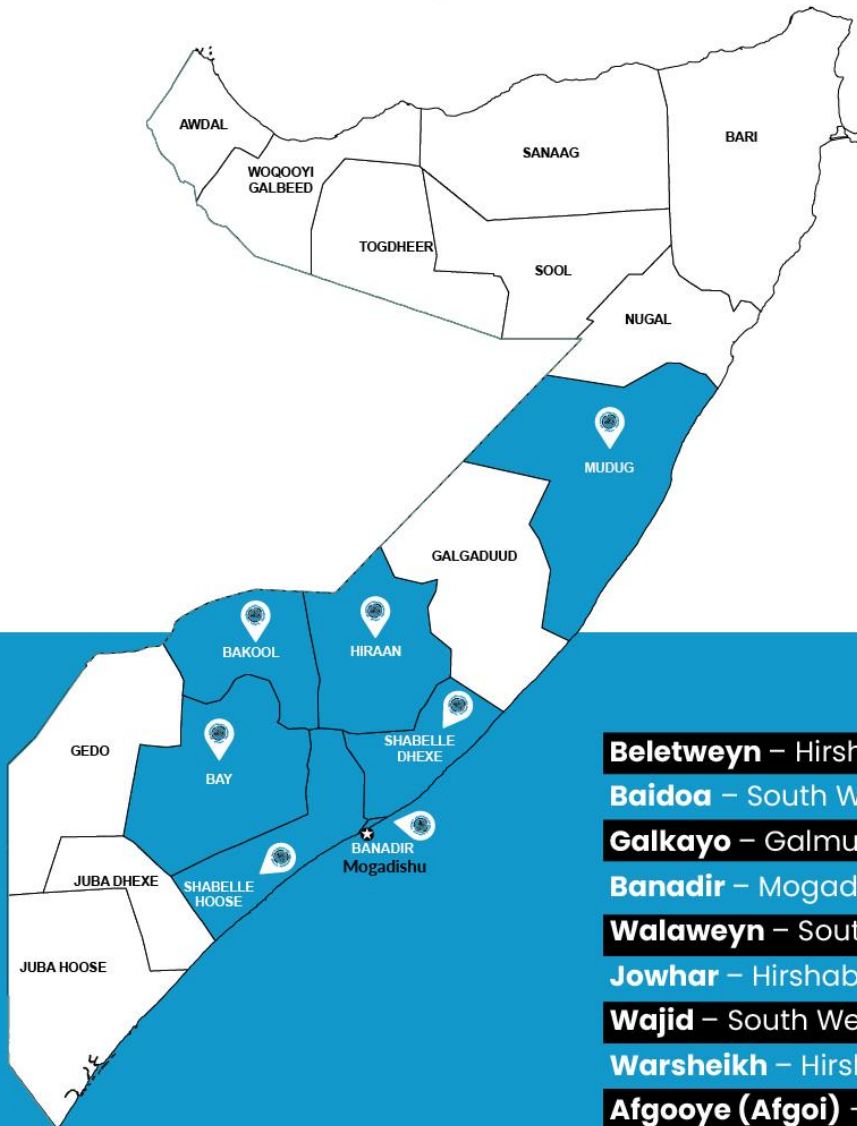
Empowering Women, Protecting Children, Building Stronger Communities

WHERE WE WORK



Where We Work

S.W.C.C.A Operational Areas



Beletweyn – Hirshabelle State

Baidoa – South West State

Galkayo – Galmudug State

Banadir – Mogadishu

Walaweyn – South West State

Jowhar – Hirshabelle State

Wajid – South West State

Warsheikh – Hirshabelle State

Afgooye (Afgoi) – South West State

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“ There is no tool for development more effective than the empowerment of women. — Kofi Annan ”

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

SWCCA – Somali Women and Child Care Association
GBV – Gender-Based Violence
CSOs – Civil Society Organizations
WROs – Women’s Rights Organizations
PSEA – Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse
SEA – Sexual Exploitation and Abuse
SHF – Somalia Humanitarian Fund
MPCA – Multi-Purpose Cash Assistance
IDPs – Internally Displaced Persons
PLWDs – People Living with Disabilities
CCSA – Child-Centered Social Accountability
SIHA NETWORK – Strategic Initiative for Women in the Horn of Africa
CSW – Commission on the Status of Women
CHWs – Community Health Workers
WASH – Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene
ECCD – Early Childhood Care and Development
PTA – Parent-Teacher Association
VAC – Violence Against Children
IGAs – Income-Generating Activities
CTCs – Community Treatment Centers



MESSAGE FROM THE SWCCA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Adno Mohamed

Acting Executive Director, Somali Women and Child Care Association (SWCCA)

Dear Partners, Supporters, and Friends,

As we close the chapter of 2024, we at SWCCA reflect with immense gratitude, pride, and a deepened sense of purpose. This year, like the 13 that came before it, has reaffirmed our unwavering commitment to the empowerment of Somali women and the protection and well-being of children.

Our journey—rooted in community, driven by resilience, and powered by your unwavering support—has seen us expand our reach across nine districts including Banadir, Beletweyne, Baidoa, Galkayo, Afgooye, Jowhar, Walaweyn, Wajid, and Warsheikh. Together, we have provided life-saving and transformative support through child protection services, gender-based violence (GBV) prevention, education, livelihoods, and emergency response, reaching some of Somalia's most marginalized and underserved populations.

2024 was also a year of critical growth. We strengthened our role in national localization efforts, advocated for the voices of women-led organizations, and led initiatives that challenged injustice, empowered communities, and created space for sustainable, women-driven change. Our achievements were not without challenges—but they were made possible through our shared resilience, innovation, and enduring collaboration with local and international partners.

To our dedicated team and volunteers—you are the backbone of our mission. To our beneficiaries—your strength inspires everything we do. And to our partners, donors, and friends—thank you for walking beside us, believing in us, and investing in a more inclusive and equitable Somalia.

As we step forward into 2025, we do so with greater resolve to deepen our impact, forge new partnerships, and create a future where every woman and every child in Somalia can live with dignity, safety, and opportunity.

With sincere gratitude,

Adno Mohamed

Acting Executive Director

Somali Women and Child Care Association (SWCCA)

Executive Summary

The Somali Women and Child Care Association (SWCCA) proudly presents its 2024 Annual Report—a reflection of our steadfast commitment to advancing gender equality, protecting children, and building resilient, inclusive communities across Somalia. Over the course of the year, SWCCA reached **29,613 direct beneficiaries**, delivering impactful interventions in some of the country's most vulnerable and hard-to-reach areas.

As a women-led national NGO founded in 2012, SWCCA has grown into a trusted local partner with operational offices in Mogadishu, Baidoa, Beletweyne, Jowhar, Dhobley, and Galkayo, and field presence in Banadir, Walaweyn, Warsheikh, Wajid, and Afgooye districts. Our programming cuts across key thematic areas, including child protection, gender-based violence (GBV) prevention and response, women's rights and livelihoods, humanitarian relief, WASH, education, health, and social protection.

Throughout 2024, SWCCA strengthened its position as a key driver of locally led development and humanitarian response. Our success has been made possible by cultivating strong partnerships and maintaining collaborative relationships with:

- **Government entities** at federal, regional, and district levels, aligning our work with national policies and strategies.
- **United Nations agencies and international NGOs**, with whom we co-implemented programs, contributed to cluster coordination mechanisms, and advanced the localization agenda.
- **Community structures**, elders, and traditional leaders, who ensured community trust, ownership, and cultural sensitivity in all our activities.
- **Women's rights organizations, youth groups, and local civil society stakeholders**, who co-created solutions, advocated for inclusion, and amplified community voices.

Key 2024 highlights include:

- Supporting women and girls through capacity building, safe spaces, and economic empowerment programs.
- Delivering integrated child protection and mental health services, reuniting children with families and operating child-friendly spaces.
- Assisting GBV survivors with dignity kits, psychosocial support, and referrals to essential services.
- Implementing multi-purpose cash transfers for disaster-affected households in Baidoa rural areas.
- Leading large-scale community engagement advocacy and awareness-raising campaigns, reaching over 21,000 people.

Despite challenges such as insecurity, funding constraints, and socio-cultural barriers, SWCCA continued to adapt, innovate, and expand. Lessons from 2024 have reinforced the importance of local leadership, inter-agency coordination, and sustained investment in community-based solutions.

As we step into 2025, SWCCA is committed to:

- Deepening partnerships with donors, UN agencies, government actors, and grassroots organizations.
- Expanding services to underserved regions and emerging crisis zones.
- Scaling climate resilience, peacebuilding, and survivor-centered SEA prevention mechanisms.
- Driving systemic change through policy advocacy and inclusive, accountable programming.

We extend our heartfelt appreciation to our dedicated staff, resilient communities, and valued partners—your collaboration and trust are the foundation of our impact. Together, we will continue to build a Somalia where every woman and child lives with dignity, safety, and opportunity.



ABOUT SWCCA

Somali Women and Child Care Association (SWCCA) is a women-led, national non-governmental organization (NGO) founded in April 2012 with a bold mission to empower women, safeguard children, and uplift Somalia's most vulnerable communities. Grounded in the principles of equity, dignity, resilience, and inclusion, SWCCA works at the nexus of humanitarian action, sustainable development, and rights-based advocacy to drive transformative change in fragile and conflict-affected environments.

Headquartered in Mogadishu, SWCCA maintains regional offices in Baidoa, Dhobley, Jowhar, Galkayo, and Beletweyne, and delivers services across several operational districts including Banadir, Walaweyn, Warsheikh, Wajid, and Afgooye. Our deep local roots and community trust enable us to design and deliver context-driven, locally led solutions, with a strong focus on elevating the voices and leadership of women, girls, and children.

Over the past decade, SWCCA has earned recognition as a reliable and innovative local actor, delivering high-impact programming in key sectors such as:

- Child Protection and Safeguarding
- Gender-Based Violence (GBV) Prevention and Response
- Women's Rights and Economic Empowerment
- Climate Resilience and Sustainable Livelihoods
- Education and Youth Empowerment
- Health, Nutrition, and Psychosocial Support
- Humanitarian Relief and Social Protection
- Shelter and Non-Food Items (NFIs)
- Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH)

As an active member of national and regional coordination platforms, including the Child Protection, GBV, Education, WASH, Shelter, Health, Nutrition, and Protection Clusters, SWCCA collaborates with UN agencies, INGOs, government bodies, and civil society organizations to deliver integrated, gender-responsive, and rights-based interventions.

SWCCA is dedicated to promoting locally led development and humanitarian responses by placing women's leadership and inclusive governance at the forefront. We believe that sustainable change begins when Somali communities are empowered to lead the solutions that shape their futures. Through collaboration, innovation, and a strong commitment to accountability, we strive to build a peaceful, equitable, and resilient Somalia where women and children are not only protected—but empowered to flourish.

VISION

To build a society where Somali women and children are empowered, protected, and actively contributing to a peaceful, equitable, and prosperous future.

MISSION

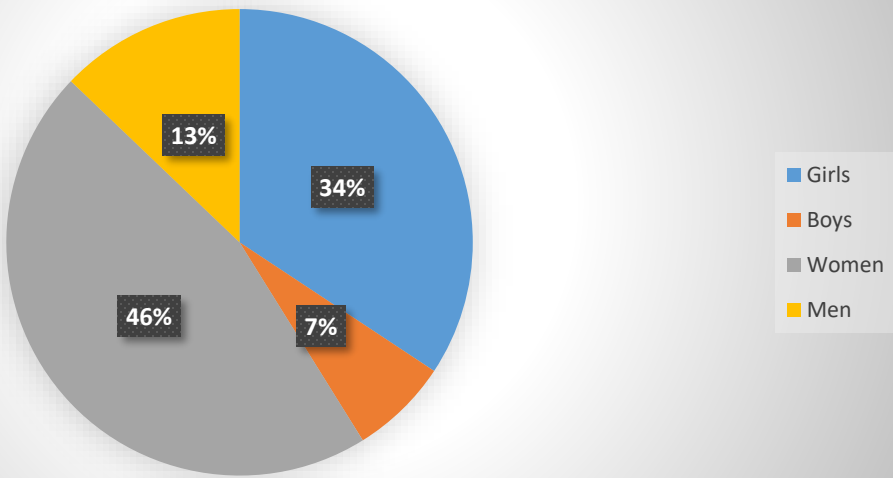
To empower Somali women and children by creating a safe and supportive environment, advocating for their rights, and ensuring access to protection, education, healthcare, and social opportunities.



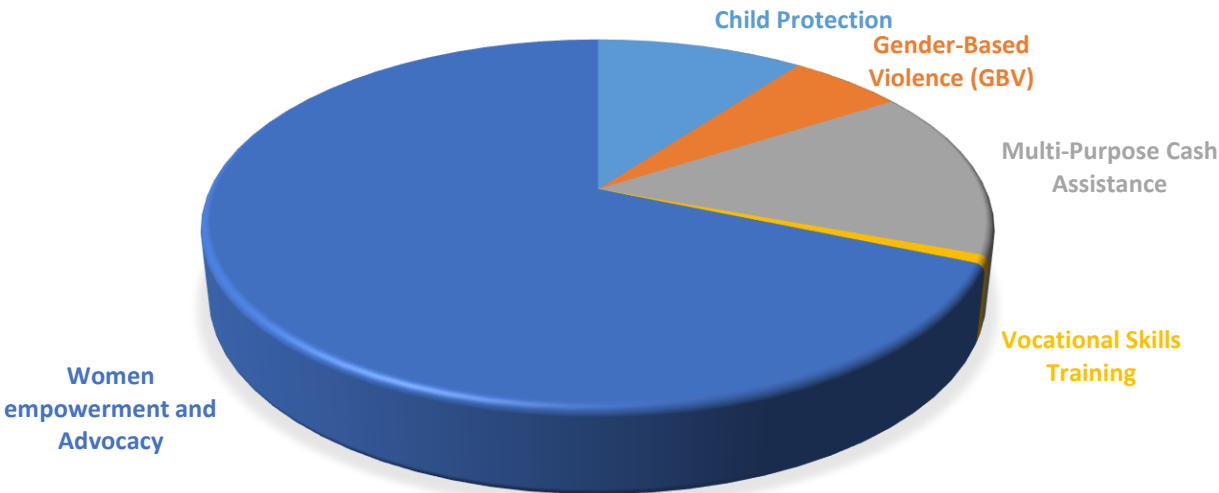
2024 ACHIEVEMENTS AT A GLANCE

In 2024, SWCCA made remarkable strides in advancing its mission to empower women and protect children, reaching thousands of beneficiaries across diverse sectors. The organization prioritized the needs of vulnerable groups, including women-headed households, children, and survivors of gender-based violence (GBV), while fostering community engagement and promoting sustainable development. Through innovative programs and strategic partnerships, SWCCA strengthened child protection systems, enhanced gender equality, and built resilience in some of Somalia's most marginalized communities and reached 29,613 Beneficiaries:

SWCCA Beneficiaries Reached in 2024



SWCCA IMPACT ACROSS SECTORS IN 2024



PROGRAMS AND IMPACTS

Empowering Somali Women and Girls to Drive Locally Contextualized Action in Crises



SWCCA) have successfully implemented several initiatives under the project "Empowering Somali Women and Girls to Drive Locally Contextualized Action in Crises." These activities were aimed at fostering gender equality, enhancing community resilience, and ensuring the protection and empowerment of vulnerable groups in Mogadishu and Baidoa.

Outcome 1: Enhancing the capacity of women's organizations and girl-led movements to advocate for the overall well-being of women and girls.

Outcome 2: Strengthening protection mechanisms and promoting anticipatory actions at the community level to safeguard the rights and well-being of women and girls.

Outcome 3: Enhanced civic spaces through the participation of social accountability groups (including Girls-led movements, women's rights organizations, and other CSOs) in public decision-making processes and social accountability

Comprehensive capacity assessment and capacity building for 15 Women Rights Organization and girls led movements in Somalia



In 2024, SWCCA achieved a significant milestone by conducting a comprehensive capacity assessment of 15 women-led organizations operating in South-Central Somalia. This initiative aligns with SWCCA's commitment to fostering a more inclusive and empowered community. The assessment aimed to identify the specific needs, strengths, and areas for improvement within these Women's Rights Organizations (WROs) and girl-led movements, enabling SWCCA to provide targeted support for advancing women's rights and empowerment.

As part of its continuous efforts to enhance organizational capacity, SWCCA also provided tailored capacity-building training for these 15 organizations. The training focused on five key thematic areas:

1. Advocacy

2. Participation in decision-making processes
3. Fundraising and proposal development
4. Project management
5. Humanitarian response and principles, including external relations

Through this initiative, SWCCA aims to strengthen the skills and knowledge of these organizations, equipping them to address emerging challenges effectively. By evolving its strategies and approaches, SWCCA remains dedicated to empowering women's rights organizations and ensuring sustainable progress in gender equality and women's empowerment. Capacity assessment and capacity building reports as well as the list of the organizations benefited of this opportunity annexed to this report

CAPACITY BUILDING PROGRAMS FOR WOMEN AND GIRLS, COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES & SWCCA STAFF.

Women Leadership and Women's Rights Training

The "Women Leadership and Women's Rights Training" program, held in Mogadishu, Somalia, from December 19-21, 2023, was a key initiative by SWCCA in collaboration with Save the Children and other partners. It aimed to empower women in overcoming cultural and traditional barriers. The training engaged 25 participants, including media teams, women's rights organizations, activists, and university students. The sessions focused on leadership styles, overcoming self-doubt, mastering public speaking, and advocating for women's rights. Methodologies included presentations, role-plays, group discussions, and case studies, with materials such as flipcharts and notebooks provided.

Achievements included strong engagement, reflection exercises, and comprehensive modules on leadership, public speaking, and women's rights. Challenges addressed involved resource limitations, cultural barriers, security concerns, and the need for stakeholder engagement. The training reinforced women's empowerment, contributing to positive gender dynamics and advocacy efforts. This initiative aligns with SWCCA's broader commitment to empowering women, children, and communities, advocating for a more equitable society.

Strengthening Referral Pathways for Duty Bearers to Promote, Respect, and Fulfill Survivors' Rights

This training program targeted 90 duty bearers (52 women, 38 men, including four persons with disabilities) to address fragmented services, lack of coordination, and limited survivor-centered training. Key outcomes included improved communication among duty bearers, increased community awareness of support services, and enhanced skills in trauma-informed care. Recommendations emphasized the need for comprehensive training, centralized referral systems, interagency collaboration, community engagement, and robust monitoring frameworks to ensure a more effective, responsive, and survivor-centered support system.

Facilitation of Women's early Warning Committee for Somali Anticipatory Action

On March 9-10, 2024, SWCCA conducted a workshop for 50 women to establish an early warning committee focused on anticipating and mitigating risks related to conflict, displacement, and natural disasters. The training emphasized women and girls as active participants in disaster risk management rather than passive victims.



Fostering Joint Actions among Women-Led CSOs

A two-day workshop (February 20-21, 2024) engaged 30 women from various CSOs to establish a collaborative platform for collective advocacy, campaigns, and initiatives. This platform strengthened sectoral policy engagement and joint efforts to address gender-related challenges. Across sectoral policy priorities, engaging in collective advocacy, campaigns, or initiatives to address common issues and achieve shared goals.

Capacity-Building Workshops on Protection and Climate Early Warning Systems

A two-day capacity-building workshop (February 28-29, 2024) engaged 50 participants (13 men, 37 women) from Women's Rights Organizations (WROs) and girls-led movements. The workshop increased awareness of early warning mechanisms for hazards, decision-making challenges, and the protective measures necessary to address human rights violations against women and girls in Somalia.

Training on Child-Centered Social Accountability (CCSA) Mechanisms

From February 24-27, 2024, SWCCA conducted four-day training for 30 participants (6 men, 24 women) from girls-led organizations, WROs, service providers, government agencies, and CSOs. The training aimed to enhance stakeholder engagement, impact assessment, and the development of effective advocacy strategies within the CCSA framework. Key topics included risk management, resource allocation, and the establishment of clear advocacy approaches.





PSEAH Training for Somali Women and Child Care Association Staff in Mogadishu

The PSEAH Training conducted by the Somali Women and Child Care Association (SWCCA) for its staff in Mogadishu from November 27th to 30th, 2023, was a strategic response to the endorsement of the Country PSEA Action Plan and SEA Inter-Agency Reporting SOPs by the Somalia UNCT and HCT in June and July 2022. The training aimed to fortify the awareness, knowledge, and skills of SWCCA staff in preventing and addressing sexual exploitation, abuse, and harassment within the organization. Spanning four days, the program featured interactive sessions, case studies, and group discussions, emphasizing eight modules covering key aspects of PSEA. Noteworthy outcomes included heightened awareness, enhanced policy understanding, improved reporting mechanisms, and a strengthened organizational culture. The training signifies a significant stride in fostering a safer workplace, and recommendations include regular refresher courses, continuous awareness campaigns, and periodic policy reviews to sustain and fortify positive changes. Ongoing efforts are deemed essential for the continued progress and consolidation of a secure organizational environment.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND EMPOWERED INNOVATIONS



Community Dialogues and Decision-Making Process Workshops

SWCCA organized several community dialogues and decision-making process workshops, primarily targeting women and girls. These workshops were designed to engage participants in meaningful discussions, utilizing interactive methods such as role-playing and scenario analysis to simulate real-life decision-making environments. The aim was to boost confidence in leadership roles among participants and to foster their involvement in local governance. As a result, these sessions significantly improved participants' understanding of their roles in community governance, equipping them to effectively advocate for necessary changes in community protection services.

SWCCA conducted workshops for engaging community members, especially women, and girls, in community dialogues and decision-making processes to identify opportunities for expanding and enhancing the community-based

Protection service and the integration of anticipatory actions aiming in promoting gender equality, enhancing protection services and integrating anticipatory actions through interactive sessions and panel discussions reaching total of 75 participants (49F, 26M).

The aim of this activity was to strengthen and emphasize on the need of involving women and girls in community protection services and the available opportunities for them to engage in these activities.



Community forums, facilitated by SWCCA, provided a platform for open dialogue and collective decision-making. Through these forums, community members actively participated in the identification of priority projects, fostering a sense of ownership and shared responsibility with diverse community members, including IDPs, Host communities, minority groups, and people with disability, influential people, Government officials and local authority.

The project established committees linking with community and SWCCA. The community will facilitate referral pathway through SWCCA Community Protection Promoter and the Hotline number which is 3003 which is active

The Community-Based Child Protection and Women Early Warning Committee, established by SWCCA in Deynile, Kahda, and Baidoa, enhanced child protection and strengthened women's roles in crisis response.

Key Objectives:

- Child Protection: Prevent abuse, exploitation, and neglect while ensuring support and referrals.
- Women's Early Warning & Response: Empower women in conflict prevention and GBV reporting.
- Community Engagement: Train women, promote leadership, and improve social resilience.

Focus Areas:

- Deynile & Kahda: Support IDP communities, address child labor, and strengthen women's leadership.
- Baidoa: Prevent child recruitment, enhance reporting systems, and tackle GBV in rural areas.
- Between November 2023 and April 2024, daily awareness-raising and outreach activities were conducted, covering essential topics such as child protection, gender equality, and women's empowerment. These activities were meticulously planned to address the immediate needs of the communities, focusing on empowering women and children with the knowledge and tools necessary for their safety and development. The outreach initiatives reached a remarkable total of 21,351 individuals, with a notable participation of 18,313 females and 3,038 males. This extensive engagement underscores the project's deep reach and impact in shaping community norms and practices towards more equitable and safe environments. The total beneficiaries reached 70% were female and 30% were males.



To empower communities with the ability to protect their children from any form of



violence

SWCCA Strengthens Child Protection Systems in Mogadishu

The Somali Women and Child Care Association (SWCCA) has successfully implemented the "Sustainable and Supportive Family Care and Protection Systems for Children" project in Mogadishu, reaching 285 beneficiaries (237 females, 48 males). Through strategic collaboration with government entities, partners, and communities, SWCCA ensured effective coordination and minimized service overlap.

Key initiatives included:

- Community-Based Child Protection Committee: Established on December 25, 2023, in Deynile and Kahda districts, comprising 30 members (6 males, 24 females) dedicated to safeguarding children's rights.



- Capacity Building on Child Rights & Protection: Conducted in November for 20 participants (7 males, 13 females) to enhance community awareness and response to child protection concerns.
- Strengthening Monitoring & Referral Mechanisms: On December 26, SWCCA supported existing community structures, training 30 participants (6 males, 24 females) to identify, report, and address child protection issues.
- Awareness on Harmful Traditional Practices: In October, SWCCA engaged 25 participants (5 males, 20 females) and reached 150 beneficiaries (11 males, 139 females) to promote child rights awareness.
- Peer Education Training: Held on December 25-26, equipping 30 participants (13 males, 18 females) with the knowledge to contribute to child protection efforts.

These initiatives reflect SWCCA's commitment to fostering community-driven solutions for child protection, promoting awareness, and building sustainable systems to create a safer environment for children in South Central Somalia.



Child Protection Project Impact

In 2024, SWCCA's Child Protection Project supported 1,150 beneficiaries, providing case management, psychosocial support, and referrals to essential services for 110 children (58 girls and 52 boys) from affected communities. The project successfully reunited 140 children with their families and delivered tailored psychosocial support to 370 children. Additionally, 620 beneficiaries accessed Child-Friendly Spaces, ensuring a safe and nurturing environment for children under 18.

To enhance community awareness and safety, the project reached 2,007 individuals including women, girls, men, and boys with life-saving protection messaging. This initiative was supported by SHF and contributed significantly to child protection efforts in Somalia.

Gender-Based Violence Prevention and Response



In 2024, SWCCA's GBV intervention efforts reached 1,766 individuals, including 116 survivors who received safe and confidential services. The project provided training to 20 frontline workers to enhance GBV response capabilities and supported 1,000 beneficiaries through Women and Girls Safe Spaces, ensuring safe environments for women and girls.

Additionally, 150 vulnerable women and girls benefited from Cash Voucher Assistance, while 400 individuals received dignity kits, further addressing immediate needs and promoting dignity during crisis situations. These efforts contribute significantly to providing protection and support for women and girls in affected communities. Supported by SHF.

Commemoration of 16 Days of Activism from 25 Nov-10 December 2024



SWCCA commemorated 16 Days of Activism with collaboration of **UNTMIS** and conducted 3 activities 2 activities were panel discussion and held in **Mogadishu and Galkayo** with different participants

Mogadishu and Galkayo: SWCCA organized panel discussions, bringing together government officials, women leaders, CSOs, community elders, religious leaders, and representatives from the Ministry of Climate Change, Family Affairs, minority groups, persons with disabilities, and IDPs women. The discussions, titled *Voices Unheard: Ending GBV in a Changing Climate*, engaged 125 participants (90 in Mogadishu, 35 in Galkayo).

❖ **SEAH Workshop for Female Students:**

- ❖ Mogadishu: A workshop for 40 female university students raised awareness on preventing and combating sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA). Only 4 participants had prior knowledge of the 16 Days of Activism campaign. The event achieved:
 - Increased awareness on SEA
 - Empowerment through knowledge on SEA prevention
 - Creation of advocacy networks among the students
 - Commitment to future GBV initiatives

❖ **GBV Awareness Session & Panel Discussion:**

- **Mogadishu:** On December 3, SWCCA hosted a ground-breaking GBV awareness event with 54 participants (43 females, 11 males). Key discussions centered on the challenges surrounding GBV and the need for collective action, with contributions from a diverse group of stakeholders including women leaders, traditional elders, youth activists, and government representatives.





International Human Rights Day Commemoration:

South Galkayo: On December 10, a panel discussion with the IDP community in South Galkayo highlighted the prevalence of GBV and the lack of services for survivors. The event, attended by 35 participants (25 females, 10 males), called for urgent interventions to address GBV challenges.

SWCCA, in partnership with **SIHA NETWORK**, successfully commemorated the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence (GBV) in Duco Waalid and Dhibane IDP camps, located in Deynile and Kahda districts. The event, held on December 10, 2024, aimed to raise awareness on women's rights, gender equality, GBV prevention, and support services for GBV survivors, as well as the accessibility of referral pathways. A total of 90 participants attended, including 76 females, 14 males, and 30 members of Community Protection Groups, minority groups, and people with disabilities.

Key highlights included discussions on women's rights and gender equality, focusing on equal access to resources, opportunities, and decision-making processes. Participants were also educated on GBV prevention and the available support services for survivors, including safe spaces and referral mechanisms. The event further addressed cultural barriers and social norms that perpetuate GBV, with an emphasis on efforts to challenge harmful norms and promote gender equality in the camps.

Multi-Purpose Cash Assistance (MPCA) Project in Baidoa funded by SHF.



The project successfully identified and supported 925 vulnerable households in Baidoa rural areas, affected by floods, conflict, and drought, through three rounds of Cash Assistance. These households included women-headed families, people living with disabilities (PLWDs), the elderly, marginalized and minority groups, individuals with chronic illnesses, and households with malnourished children under five. The Multi-Purpose Cash Assistance (MPCA) was provided over three months, with beneficiaries informed of their entitlements and the duration of support. Timely communication regarding cash disbursement dates enabled effective planning and ensured transparency.

This assistance significantly alleviated hunger and acute malnutrition, especially among children, by allowing households to meet their basic food needs. It promoted social equity by prioritizing the most vulnerable groups, including women-headed households and marginalized communities. By addressing the immediate effects of food insecurity and economic challenges, the project also contributed to mitigating public health threats and ongoing crises, such as armed conflict and natural disasters.

Beneficiaries reported improved access to food, healthcare, and essential goods, which directly enhanced household well-being and stability. The ability of beneficiaries to make independent decisions about how to allocate resources fostered dignity and self-sufficiency. Furthermore, the program's emphasis on transparency and clear communication helped build trust in the process, ultimately reducing the overall vulnerability of the targeted households. Through this intervention, the project contributed to strengthening resilience and improving the stability of affected populations in Baidoa.

Vocational Skills TRAINING OF GBV SURVIVORS

On 4th May 2024, SWCCA officially launched a project aimed at providing vocational training and economic reintegration services to survivors of conflict-related sexual violence. Initially, the project aimed to support 30 survivors, but due to overwhelming demand, over 150 survivors were unable to receive services because of funding constraints. The training included practical skills such as tailoring, dressmaking, and dye-and-tie techniques, along with essential business skills like marketing, pricing, budgeting, and sales strategies. Additionally, life skills training, including basic mathematics, reading and writing in Somali, and psychosocial support, was incorporated to address the survivors' emotional healing and self-esteem. Conducted over three months, the program equipped participants with the tools to become self-sufficient and start small businesses. The survivors, many of whom developed confidence through skill acquisition, now have the potential to generate income through garment production and hand-dyed textiles. The project also fostered a sense of community among survivors, which contributed significantly to their emotional healing, as they shared experiences and supported each other. Furthermore, approximately 200 family members indirectly benefited from the support provided to the 30 survivors.



Advocacy:

- **Advocating for Women's Rights:** SWCCA advocates for gender equality and the protection of women's rights, emphasizing the importance of empowering women in decision-making and leadership roles. This includes pushing for legal reforms, policy changes, and better service delivery for women and girls affected by conflict and crises.
- **Gender-Based Violence (GBV) Advocacy:** SWCCA actively works to raise awareness about GBV and promote survivor-centered responses. This includes conducting campaigns, providing training, and organizing public forums to address the issue at both the community and national levels.
- **Child Protection:** Advocacy efforts also extend to protecting children from abuse, exploitation, and neglect. SWCCA works on strengthening child protection systems, including policies and referral mechanisms that ensure children's rights are upheld.
- **Raising Awareness on Local and International Platforms:** SWCCA leverages its participation in international forums, like the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), to advocate for Somali women and children, bringing global attention to the challenges they face while highlighting the progress made at the local level.
- ensure that interventions are more effective and that the rights of women and children are better protected.
- **Leveraging Networks for Impact:** The organization also fosters partnerships within a larger network of civil society organizations, advocating for collective action on key issues such as disaster risk management, GBV prevention, and child protection. This approach allows SWCCA to amplify its voice and mobilize resources for greater impact.



Challenges

- Somalia's security situation remains volatile, with ongoing conflicts, terrorist activities, and clan-based violence. This creates barriers for SWCCA in reaching remote communities and conducting advocacy activities in conflict-affected areas. Insecurity also hinders partnerships with other organizations and government bodies, as travel and communication are often disrupted.
- Somali society has deep-rooted cultural norms and traditions that often place women and girls at a disadvantage, particularly in terms of decision-making and leadership roles. Changing these norms through advocacy efforts is slow, and it requires long-term efforts to overcome patriarchal attitudes.
- Despite the large scope of SWCCA's mission, funding and resource mobilization can be a major challenge. Dependence on donor funding can create instability, as the organization may face funding gaps or delays in receiving support.

Lessons Learned

- Empowering local leaders—both male and female—has proven to be an effective strategy in changing community attitudes. By involving influential community members in advocacy efforts, SWCCA can overcome cultural barriers and foster positive shifts in gender norms.
- Legal reforms, particularly in challenging contexts, take time. SWCCA has learned that persistent, consistent advocacy combined with local and international pressure can eventually bring about policy and legislative changes.
- Successful advocacy initiatives require grassroots involvement. SWCCA learned that engaging communities early on in the process and ensuring they are part of the solution enhances the effectiveness of advocacy efforts. Building local support also helps overcome resistance to gender equality and child protection initiatives.



OUR PARTNERS



World Vision



**URGENT
ACTION
FUND +
AFRICA**

FOR WOMEN'S HUMAN RIGHTS



SHF Somalia Humanitarian Fund

FCG.





Official Launch of the Somali Climate Action Platform (SCAP)

Somali Women and Child Care Association (SWCCA) is proud to be a member of the newly launched **Somali Climate Action Platform (SCAP)**—a collaborative initiative aimed at promoting climate resilience, environmental justice, and locally led climate solutions across Somalia.

As part of our broader commitment to coordination, advocacy, and localization, SWCCA actively engages with key networks and platforms, including:

- **The Humanitarian Clusters (Protection, Child Protection, GBV, WASH, Shelter, and Education)**
- **Somali NGO Consortium**
- **Somali Child Rights Coalition (SCRC)**
- **Nefis Network**
- **Somali Young Feminist Network**
- **Women and Child Cluster**
- **Somali Climate Action Platform (SCAP)**

Through these platforms, SWCCA works collectively to influence policy, amplify community voices—particularly those of women and children—and contribute to sustainable, inclusive solutions in both humanitarian and development settings.

SUCCESS STORIES

MPCA Beneficiary Success Story 2024



Wasilo Dayib, a 60-year-old widow from Bula Jaay in Baidoa Rural, faced significant challenges with poverty and domestic responsibilities before being registered as a beneficiary. She shares how the Multi-Purpose Cash Assistance (MPCA) cash transfers, funded by the Somalia Humanitarian Fund (SHF) through the Somali Women and Child Care Association (SWCCA), have greatly improved her life. With the financial assistance she received, she was able to renovate her dilapidated mud-thatched house, seek medical treatment, and start a fresh milk-selling business in her village.

Currently, Wasilo is thrilled with her economic and health improvements, thanks to the funds disbursed directly to her Hormud EVC number for the months of September, October, and November 2024. She explains, "With the \$120 I received in the first month, I was able to reconstruct my 20-year-old house. It is now habitable and no longer leaks when it rains."

The second cash transfer allowed her to visit an eye specialist at a reputable hospital, something she had never been able to do due to financial constraints. "Now my vision is fully restored, thanks to Allah and SWCCA," Wasilo added. After receiving the final cash transfer in November 2024, she is now able to buy and sell 20 liters of fresh milk daily, an activity that keeps her busy and generates profit.

Mama Wasilo's story is just one example of many women whose lives have positively changed as beneficiaries of the MPCA program. We extend our gratitude to the SHF for this life-altering support.

Halima's Story: A Journey of Hope and Support



My name is Halima, {not her real name} and I live in the Mahad Alle camp in Galkayo District, where the daily reality of life has been nothing short of a struggle. As an internally displaced person, I have faced countless hardships, both financial and emotional. Like many others in the camp, I have often found myself grappling with how to meet even the most basic needs. The lack of consistent income and access

to resources has left me feeling helpless and isolated. One of the greatest challenges I faced was the inability to access hygiene products. Without proper hygiene supplies, I was forced to make do with what little I could find, often compromising my own health and dignity. It was an exhausting and dehumanizing experience, and I often found myself losing hope.

Everything changed the day I stumbled upon a small post in the camp. It was a simple notice, but it caught my attention as it spoke about available support for women like me. The notice included a helpline number {3003} for those in need of assistance, and in a moment of desperation, I decided to reach out. I called the number, hoping for some guidance or even a glimmer of hope. When the call worker answered, she listened patiently to everything I had to say. I poured out my heart, telling her about the financial struggles I was facing and the difficulty of accessing essential hygiene products. I explained how this situation had left me feeling emotionally drained and without options.

To my surprise, the call worker didn't just offer words of sympathy but also directed me to the Women and Girls Safe Space Centre located in Mahad Alle, a place funded by the SHF and implemented by SWCCA, where I could receive support. She explained that the centre provided various services to help to women in situations like mine. I felt a flicker of hope but was also uncertain about what to expect. Nonetheless, I decided to take a chance and visit the centre. When I arrived, I was welcomed with warmth and compassion. The case workers at the centre took their time to speak with me, making sure I felt comfortable and understood. They provided me with detailed information about the range of services they offered, including emotional support, educational resources, and, most importantly, practical assistance.

What stood out to me the most was when the case workers informed me that I had been selected as a beneficiary of the Dignity Kit program. I had never felt such a sense of relief and gratitude. The Dignity Kit, which is provided regularly, includes essential hygiene products such as 3 dress, 3 shawl, 3 sanitary clothes, 5 panties, 3 bar soap 250 grams, 3 pack of power soap 100 grams, 3 petticoats, 3 head scarves and one packaging plastic, which I couldn't afford before. For the first time in months, I felt like I could maintain my dignity, take care of myself, and not worry about whether I would have the basics needed to stay healthy.

The regular delivery of the Dignity Kit and the Psychosocial support services has made an incredible difference in my life. It's not just about the physical items I receive; it's the sense of security and hope that comes with knowing that someone cares. The support has helped alleviate a tremendous burden on my shoulders, allowing me to focus on rebuilding my life, emotionally and physically. I no longer feel isolated or powerless. The Women and Girls Safe Space Centre has provided me with more than just material aid; they have restored my sense of worth and given me the courage to face each day with renewed strength. I am deeply grateful for the support I've received, and I know that without this assistance, my journey would have been much more difficult. The centre has been a lifeline, and I am filled with hope for the future. **We appreciate to SHF.**

Khadija's Story: From Survivor to Advocator



My name is Khadija, {not her real name} a 28 years old living in the Karama IDP camp Galkacyo District. My life took a horrific turn when I was 8 years old. My mother informed me that we will be visiting my grandma back in the village. I was so excited about the whole visit; little did I know that my whole life was to take a horrific turn. I ended up becoming a victim of the cut. Together with nine other girls, were dressed only in our traditional outfit{Dirac}and all taken under a huge tree. There we were waited for by

an old gigantic lady with several unhygienic tools like knives and razors besides her. One after another well witnessed the other go through the brutal act. When my turn came, I was held to the ground by three strong women, then the old lady proceeded to do the act without any Anastasia. I screamed to the top of my voice as the pain was too unbearable. The women ended up making fun of me and calling me coward because of my cries.

There were no any proper painkillers to ease the pain, to make the matter worse the women ended up applying some traditional stuffs called myrrh and eggs, this according to them was to help with the pain and stop bleeding, but things took a different turn when those stuffs did not only lead to severe pain but also caused serious bleeding and infections that lasted for a while. After all this we were all taken to the old woman's home for the healing process. This tragic event not only left me psychologically and mentally distressed but also very heartbroken due to the loss of four of the girls due to over bleeding and infections. I was lucky to survive this horrific act. When the time to leave for home came, I left the village vowing to never come back to this murderous place again. I became a survivor of Female Genital Mutilation (FGM), a practice that is not only brutal but left me with immense pain and trauma. The physical psychological consequences were unbearable and at times I felt like I had failed my body for allowing it to go through such injustice.

In the midst of all this confusion, I still grew up and eventually years later I got married at the age of 16 years. Time went by and I eventually got pregnant with twins. Now came the most difficult time of my life. When the time for me to deliver came, I felt as though my life was coming to an end. From suffering from prolonged labour that lasted for five days to difficulty in delivering the babies due to the FGM act that was done on me. The cut I went through had severely caused me so much damage. I lay there full of pain as I watched the village traditional birth attendance run up and down trying to help me deliver. When all hope was lost, I was rushed to the Galkacyo District hospital. Upon arrival the doctors did a quick check up and I was immediately referred for C-section birth. My poor body was already tired from all the pain and as I was prepared for the delivery, my heart couldn't stop pondering against my chest. The thought of going through another body cut was overwhelming. I couldn't hold my tears as I laid in the theatre bed praying for God to save me. Hours later, the delivery was successful and I was admitted to the ward with my two beautiful girls.

The doctor during his ward run, questioned me on my situation. I told him all the trauma I had been through and my heart was relieved when he offered words of empathy and encouragement. As years went by I always pondered on all the events in my life frequently. Everytime I looked at my poor girls my heart broke because of the reality that was waiting for them. I deep down knew it in my heart that I didn't want the same for them but living in the same environment I knew that nothing could be done and the act was still waiting for them. I found myself sinking into despair, feeling hopeless and alone. Just as I thought hope was lost, stumbled upon a team in my camp talking to women and raising awareness about FGM and its harmful effects. I was touched by their words and decided to seek more information about these team by approaching one of the members for a quick chat. It was then that I found out that team were a group of community mobilizers and case workers from SWCCA. Days later I gathered courage and visited the GBV One-Stop Centre that is run by the SWCCA team which was funded by SHF {Somali Humanitarian Fund}. Upon arrival at the centre I found women of my age and girls receiving awareness on GBV, early marriage and FGM.

My heart raced as I recalled the incidents that happened to me. I realized how little girls and women back in my village still suffer in the hands of uneducated women who have zero information on the acts they practice and their harmful effects. I decided to visit the centre every day and become part of the women and girls group that received awareness. Eventually I found courage and shared my life story with fellow

women and girls in order to encourage them and motivate them to fight against these harmful acts. It was then that I was selected as leader of these groups by SWCCA. After months of volunteering in the fight against these acts at the centre and in the camps, I was officially appointed as a member of the FGM community advocacy group{CAG}. Being a part of this initiative has been incredibly empowering for me. I have gone from being a survivor to becoming an advocate for change. Each time I speak to someone about FGM, I feel a sense of pride and purpose. I know that my pain was not in vain, and I am helping others to avoid the same suffering. With the help of SWCCA, my journey has taught me that even in the darkest of times, there is always a chance to find light and make a difference. I will continue to raise my voice, not only for myself but for all the women and girls who still face the horrors of FGM. Through our collective efforts, I believe we can end this harmful practice and give others the chance to live a life free from fear and pain.

Abdurrahman's Success Story: Transforming the Community through Sports



My name is Abdurrahman, and I work with SWCCA in the Mahad Alle IDP camp and Dagaari village in the Galkayo District. During my fieldwork in these areas, I noticed something troubling – the children in these communities weren't participating in any form of sports or recreational activities. It was a sad sight to see

kids with so much energy and potential but no outlet to channel it. I decided to investigate further to understand why this was happening.

Upon conducting assessment and observation, I discovered that the reason behind this lack of participation in sports was deeply rooted in cultural beliefs. The local religious leaders and elders had banned football and other forms of sports, deeming them inappropriate for the children. This restriction was limiting the kids' opportunities to engage in physical activities, which are essential for their growth and development. I immediately realized that something needed to be done to change this situation and give the children an opportunity to enjoy the benefits of sports, which include physical health, social interaction, and improved well-being.

I brought this issue to the attention of my team members at SWCCA, and we decided to take action. We began a massive educational campaign aimed at changing the community's perception on sports and recreational activities for the children. We worked closely with the religious leaders and elders, holding discussions and presenting the positive impact of sports on children's lives. Through continuous dialogue, we managed to build understanding and gain the support of community leaders. With their blessing, SWCCA organized sports activities for the children and provided them with sports kits, including footballs and other equipment.

The impact of these efforts was astounding. What started as a small initiative soon grew into a community-wide movement. The children began to actively participate in sports, and it wasn't long before the entire community started embracing the idea. Sports and recreational activities became a fun and exciting part of everyday life in Mahad Alle and Dagaari. Children now engage in football, volleyball, and other physical activities that were once banned. This not only improved their physical health but also created a sense of camaraderie and unity among them.

The transformation was not just physical but also cultural. The community, once skeptical about the benefits of sports, now sees it as a positive force for the development of their children. I am proud to say that through SWCCA's efforts, we were able to bring about this change. The children now have the chance to thrive in ways they never could have before, and sports have become a central part of their lives. It has been an incredibly rewarding experience to see the joy and energy that sports have brought to these children, and I am thankful to have played a part in changing the community's perspective on such a vital aspect of child development.

"My name is Ali, 12 yrs. old, and I can hardly contain my excitement about finally being able to participate in sports and recreational activities in my village! For as long as I can remember, we didn't have any facilities or opportunities to play games, and I often dreamed of kicking a soccer ball or joining my friends in a game of basketball. Now, with new programs being introduced, I feel like a whole new world has opened up for us. Running on the field, laughing with my friends, and learning new skills fills me with joy and a sense of belonging I've never felt before. This chance to play not only brings us together but also gives us hope and a brighter future. I am so thankful for this opportunity to be active and have fun!
Supported by Somali Humanitarian Fund (SHF).

Anab Abdullah's Journey: From Survivor to Empowered Entrepreneur



My name is Anab Abdullah, {not her real name} a 25-year-old mother of two, and I want to share my journey of transformation after experiencing sexual violence. After escaping a violent marriage, I found myself struggling to support my children while feeling isolated and uncertain about my future. As a survivor of Conflict Related Sexual Violence), I lacked the emotional support and financial independence to rebuild my life. My self-esteem was shattered, and I felt my dreams of becoming independent and successful were beyond reach.

In early 2024, I was selected to participate in a vocational training program run by SWCCA, aimed specifically at empowering survivors like me. This program provided training in tailoring, dressmaking, and tie & dye, equipping us with practical skills to start our own businesses. We also received start-up kits containing essential tools for our crafts.

During the three-month training, I learned the basics of tailoring and dressmaking, from simple alterations to creating entire garments. I even picked up the art of tie & dye, allowing me to experiment with fabric designs and express my creativity. At first, I felt overwhelmed, having no prior experience with sewing machines or fabric design, but the instructors were incredibly patient. They showed me that my past did not define my future.

The supportive environment in the training sessions was crucial. Many women in the class shared similar experiences of violence, and the mutual support we offered each other helped us rebuild our confidence and self-worth. I began to see myself not just as a survivor, but as someone with the potential to succeed.

Upon completing the training, I received my start-up kit, which included a sewing machine, fabrics, threads, dyes, and other necessary tools. This was the turning point I had long hoped for. I was so grateful; it felt like I was given a new beginning. I started by making simple clothing items for friends and family, and as word spread, my small business began to grow. I received orders for custom-made dresses, school uniforms, and tie & dye accessories. The demand for my work increased, allowing me to hire two other women from my community, providing them with employment and a source of income.

Today, I run a successful tailoring and dressmaking business and employ three other women. My income has enabled me to send my children to school and cover household expenses. I no longer feel ashamed of my past. Through this training, I've rediscovered my strength and regained my dignity. I'm able to contribute to my community in ways I never imagined.

I am passionate about helping other survivors of GBV. I actively participate in community outreach programs, sharing my story and encouraging women to take up vocational training to transform their lives. My success has inspired many in my community; I have become a role model, proving that with the right skills and resources, it is possible to overcome even the most difficult circumstances.

In a recent interview, I said, "I want to show other women that no matter how dark your past may seem, you have the power to change your future. My business is just the beginning, and I will continue to grow it, one stitch at a time."

My story is a testament to the power of vocational training and the importance of providing survivors of gender-based violence with the tools, skills, and support they need to build a brighter future. As I look to the future, I am determined to expand my business, hire more women, and continue supporting other survivors on their journey to independence. With hope, hard work, and support, anything is possible. Supported by Stand Speak Rise Up (SSRU).

Amina Cadaar's Journey: From Survivor to Empowered Entrepreneur



My name is Amina Cadar {not her real name}, a 32-year-old mother of three residing in the rural community of Wisil. For many years, I suffered from gender-based violence (GBV) mainly rape survivors in conflict zone during fleeing our home due floods occurred, enduring both physical and emotional abuse from my unknown gang. Like many women in my area, I felt trapped in a cycle of poverty and dependency, with little chance to escape my circumstances. However, my life began to transform when I learned about a vocational training program organized by SWCCA, aimed at women like me who have experienced GBV/ CRSV This program provided practical skills in tailoring, dressmaking, and tie and dye, along with workshops on gender equality, confidence-building, and economic empowerment. For me, this was not just an opportunity to learn a craft; it was a chance to rebuild my life.

Initially, I felt unsure of myself. Having not completed my formal education, I had little sewing experience. Fortunately, the trainers were very patient, offering hands-on, practical instruction that enabled me to quickly acquire new skills. Within a few months, I became skilled in sewing, designing, and producing various items such as dresses, skirts, blouses, and custom tie and dye fabrics. A pivotal element of the

program was the emphasis on boosting self-esteem and leadership. I took part in workshops that educated me about my rights, how to identify and combat GBV, and how to advocate for myself and others in my community. I began to understand that I was not alone and that support was available.

After completing my training, I received a start-up kit that included a sewing machine, fabrics, tailoring tools, and tie and dye materials. This equipment was crucial for me to start my own small business at home. While I felt empowered, I was also somewhat overwhelmed by the responsibility. Thankfully, the program included business management workshops that taught me how to handle finances, market my services, and price my products effectively.

My first customers were my neighbours, friends, and other women in the community. I began making dresses, shirts, and traditional Somali outfits, and as word spread, my business flourished. I also used my newly acquired tie and dye skills in my designs, creating unique fabrics that became popular in the local market. Within a year, I expanded my small business, hired two women from my community, and even began training young girls interested in tailoring and design. My newfound financial independence allowed me to live a safer environment, transforming me into a role model for other women.

My business, Amina's Creations, has evolved into a thriving local enterprise that empowers other women to acquire valuable skills, earn income, and build brighter futures.

Beyond my material success, the emotional transformation I've experienced has been profound. I now openly discuss my experience with GBV and engage in advocacy, helping other women in similar situations find support and empowerment. My journey illustrates how vocational skills can serve as a lifeline for vulnerable women and GBV survivors, offering both economic and emotional independence.

By establishing my business and training others, I have fostered a sense of community and collective growth, where women uplift one another. The start-up kit and business training equipped me to create a sustainable livelihood, enhancing my self-confidence and agency in both my personal and professional life.

My experience stands as a powerful reminder of how combining vocational training with support for survivors of GBV can lead to lasting change, not only for individuals like me but for entire communities. With hope, determination, and support, I believe we can all overcome our pasts and create a brighter future. **We appreciate Stand Speak Rise Up for their support.**

Aisha, 28 years old, Somalia

Name changed to PROTECT THE identity

Story summary:

Aisha, a mother to a two-year-old boy, navigated a life of turmoil, silently enduring the wrath of an abusive husband. With a past marriage behind her and a young child to protect, she found herself trapped in a relentless cycle of despair, too fearful to seek help and break free from the chains of her reality.

The primary problem for Aisha was domestic violence and suffering at the hands of her abusive husband, which affects her physical and mental health and well-being. Her existence in Anfac

Camp in Mogadishu was a constant struggle for survival, overshadowed by the looming threat of violence. Until Xalimo Mumin, a dedicated member of the Women Early Warning Committee, (A committee established in the IDP camps in Kahda and Daynile districts by SWCCA through the project) discovered Aisha's situation during a routine camp visit aimed at ensuring the well-being of its inhabitants. Beyond the initial crisis intervention, the Women Early Warning Committee (WEWC) and SWCCA supported Aisha's short-term recovery and empowerment through psychosocial support, skill-building workshops, and training. This comprehensive approach helped her gain the confidence.

Aisha and her son live in Anfac Camp, a setting typical for internally displaced persons (IDPs) which suggests limited and variable income sources. Post the support, Aisha hopes to start her own business with the help of start-up kits, potentially get a source of income to fend for herself and her son.

Initially, her greatest worry was the abuse from her husband, the safety of her child, and their future. Following the intervention, her concerns likely shifted towards rebuilding her life and ensuring a stable and secure future for her son.

Strong quotes:

"Living in despair and faced with the fear for my life and that of my son trapped in domestic violence and a violent husband one fine morning I met Xalimo Mumin during her routine rounds in the camps and all I can say is that has been the beginning of a new dawn for me to break free from the chains and realize my rights just like any other human being."

"Living in despair and faced with the fear for my life and that of my son trapped in domestic violence and a violent husband one fine morning I met Xalimo Mumin during her routine rounds in the camps and all I can say is that has been the beginning of a new dawn for me to break free from the chains and realize my rights just like any other human being."

SWCCA supported Aisha's short-term recovery and empowerment through psychosocial support, workshops and training. This comprehensive approach helped her gain the confidence to break free from the abusive marriage.

Aisha now hopes for and appeals to well-wishers to help her start her own business with the help of start-up kits, potentially get a source of income.

Initially, her greatest worry was the abuse from her husband, the safety of her child, and their future. But now, her concerns likely shifted towards rebuilding her life and ensuring a stable and secure future for her son for herself and her son.

Save the Children, as the donor, underpinned the transformative efforts that reshaped Aisha's life in Daynile District through SWCCA, the local partner. This support has been pivotal in training community workers like Xalimo, who identified and acted on Amina's dire situation. Moreover, their support reflects a dedication to empowering Somali women and girls.

Interviewee's story in their own words (Quotes):

"I was trapped in darkness, but the training and care I received were rays of light, possible only because someone believed in our potential to rise."

*"Because of SWCCA's support, I'm not just a survivor; I am a force for change in my community, and my voice is finally being heard." **Supported by Save the Children***

Community Protection Group Committee in Mogadishu upheld their voices to support their communities.



Asha Siidow lives in Deeq Rabbi Camp she is member of the Community Protection Group established by SWCCA with the support of SIHA NETWORK narrated before joining the Community Protection Group (CPG), I never imagined that my voice could make a difference.

Coming from a minority background, I often felt unheard and unseen in my community. But everything changed when I was given the opportunity to be part of CPG.

As a woman from a marginalized background, I have faced many challenges that included limited access to education, cultural restrictions, and the constant fear of insecurity in my neighborhood. I grew up believing that women had little role in decision-making, and standing up for myself seemed impossible.

However, when I was recruited into the CPG, my perspective shifted. At first, I was hesitant and wondered if I could really contribute and whether my voice would matter. But through the training and mentorship I received from SWCCA, I gained the confidence to take action. I learned about human rights, GBV prevention and response, Prevention of SEAH allegation, conflict resolution, and how to advocate for my community's safety. More importantly, I learned that empowerment starts with believing in yourself. One of my proudest moments was helping a young girl escape a forced marriage. Because of my training, I was able to intervene, engage with local authorities, and ensure her right to education was protected. That day, I realized the true power of standing up not just for myself, but for others who needed support.

Being part of the CPG has transformed my life. I am no longer just a woman from a minority background; I am a leader, a protector, and a voice for change. My community now sees me as a role model, and I have inspired other women to join and take active roles in community protection. I want every woman to know that change is possible. No matter where you come from, you have the strength to make a difference. If I can do it, so can you. Together, we can build safer, stronger communities for all. **Supported by SIHA NETWORK**

Qaali story

Qaali she is part of the Community Protection Group established by SWCCA with the support of SIHA NETWORK narrated her story.

In the heart of an internally displaced persons camp, Qaali's, a young woman with a physical disability from a marginalized minority group, once struggled to find her place. Having fled conflict with her family, she faced not only displacement but also social exclusion due to her disability and ethnic background.

Opportunities were scarce, and her voice often went unheard. But when SWCCA introduced the Community Protection Group (CPG) initiative, Qaali saw a chance to change her circumstances and those of others like her. Despite initial doubts from the community about her abilities, she applied and was recruited into the CPG.

Through training on human rights, conflict resolution, and advocacy, Qaali grew in confidence. She became a key advocate for persons with disabilities (PWDs) in the camp, raising awareness

about their rights and pushing for more inclusive policies. Her presence in the group challenged perceptions, proving that disability is not inability.

One of her most significant achievements was successfully advocating for accessible pathways within the camp, making movement easier for PWDs. She also facilitates dialogues between community leaders and displaced persons with disabilities, ensuring their voices are included in decision-making.

Qaali's story is one of resilience and empowerment. From being marginalized to becoming a protector and advocate, she not only transformed her life but also inspired others to rise above their challenges. Today, she serves as a role model, showing that with opportunity and support; even the most vulnerable can become agents of change.

Real impact happening in the IDP camps

Sheikh Mohamed was a well-respected religious leader in his village, known for his wisdom and deep connection with the community. For years, he provided spiritual guidance, but he often felt helpless when it came to addressing the growing concerns of insecurity, displacement, and human rights violations affecting his people. Everything changed when he was invited to join the Community Protection Group (CPG) which is local initiative by SWCCA aimed at strengthening community resilience and promoting peace. Initially hesitant, Sheikh Mohamed soon realized the program offered much more than he had imagined.

Through CPG, Sheikh Mohamed received training in human rights, conflict resolution, mediation, and advocacy. He learned how to engage with local authorities, document cases of injustice, and peacefully resolve disputes among community members. The training also helped him recognize the importance of inclusive leadership, ensuring that women, youth, and marginalized groups had a voice in community affairs.

Armed with his newfound knowledge, Sheikh Mohamed became a bridge between the authorities and his community. He started organizing awareness sessions at the mosque, educating people about their rights and the importance of reporting violations. His credibility as a religious leader helped build trust, encouraging more community members to come forward with their concerns.

Under his leadership, the village is seeing a significant reduction in conflicts. Instead of violence, people sought mediation through the CPG. Cases of forced displacement and unlawful arrests were challenged through proper legal channels. Sheikh Ibrahim also collaborated with humanitarian organizations to bring aid to the most vulnerable, ensuring that displaced families received food, shelter, and medical assistance.

One of his greatest achievements is advocating for elimination of gender-based violence, dialogue with local leaders and security forces, to ensure IDPs and other marginalized group live with dignity and protection. After joining CPG, Sheikh Mohamed is not only a respected religious leader but also a champion of peace and human rights. His success has inspired other religious

leaders to join CPGs, recognizing the power of community-led protection efforts. His story stands as a testament to how knowledge, collaboration, and leadership can transform a community from fear to empowerment.

By leveraging his influence and trusted position, he actively engaged in discussions, workshops, and outreach programs, ensuring that community members understood their rights and the available protection mechanisms. His inspiring journey of involvement in the project not only strengthened his leadership but also empowered his community to seek justice, access social services, and promote a safer environment for all. His commitment and dedication have transformed many lives, proving that awareness and collective action can drive meaningful change.



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Together for Women and Children's Well-Being