







# ANNUAL REPORT 2017



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# Message from the Chairman



**D**ear donors, friends and supporters of Candlelight for Environment, Education & Health: It is my pleasure to let you know that twenty two fruitful years have passed since the organization's inception which, when we look back, reminds us all of the excellent work we have done as a team.

The immenseness and diversity of the needs to be addressed against the inhibiting factors viz financial and human resource was a challenge for our organization, however, the motivation and the appreciation from the communities who witnessed the outstanding work that Candlelight carried out over the years sustained our efforts in 2017.

The following report will give you a clear picture of the depth and breadth of Candlelight's activities for 2017. It contains project briefs on the multi-faceted interventions of the organization in the areas of livelihoods and community resilience building, environmental conservation, water sources development, hygiene and sanitation promotion, education and training, etc.

On behalf of the Board, I would like to thank the Somaliland communities and the supportive role of the government for facilitating our work and continuing to be our partners. I would like to extend a special THANK YOU to our funding agencies for their financial and technical assistance without which we would not be able to do the outstanding work. Lastly, to the staff of Candlelight for their dedication and commitment to make a difference to the vulnerable people of Somaliland.

**Ahmed Ibrahim Awale**   
Chairman

# Message from the Executive Director



Candlelight Organization has been implementing humanitarian interventions including famine prevention and disease outbreaks, water and sanitation, treatment of sick and malnourished children and lactating and pregnant mothers and many other interventions supporting the communities faced by humanitarian crises in Somaliland.

The 2017 report clearly explains different interventions carried out by the organization in its thematic operational areas and beneficiaries reached.

The organization has carried out its interventions towards environmental conservation and promoting sustainable rangelands including forest rehabilitation, building resilience of the vulnerable communities against the effects of the climate change, improving education and health services and improving the strengthening the livelihoods of rural communities using innovative approaches to enhance their food security and socio economic well-being .

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all Candlelight staff for their dedication and hard work for helping and protecting the most vulnerable communities and in the IDPs centers. I would like to state that without their commitment and time devoted we wouldn't reach where we are now.

Lastly, I would like to pass my sincere gratitude to our tirelessly stakeholders the government institutions, communities, local and international organizations particularly our funding agencies both in UN agencies and international organizations and all of the other who supported us to reach this tremendous achievement.

**Abdirizak Bashir Libah**   
Executive Director

# About Us

Candlelight for Environment, Education & Health was founded in 1995 as a non-profit making organization dedicated to development issues in underserved and/or marginalized Somaliland communities.

The force behind the emergence of Candlelight as an organization was the fact that the civil war in Somalia had left behind extensive loss of human lives, destruction of infrastructures and depletion of livelihood of the people. At that time, the needs were many and local development actors were few. Even other similar local institutions were in their nascent stage and lacking the capacity and expertise which is necessary for the delivery of crucial services to civilian communities who had been adversely affected by the civil war.

Since then, the organization has quickly grown from being a nascent institution to a developed effective and credible organization with interventions in all the six regions of Somaliland with special focus on youth, women, children, disabled people and IDPs. Candlelight operates through four main strategic and well positioned offices in Hargeysa (Head Office), and sub-offices in Sheikh, Burao and Erigavo. The number of staff (core and project based are now over 112 persons) of whom 40 of them are women. This enabled Candlelight to build partnership relations with multiple funding agencies, public institutions and grass root communities.

Candlelight carefully studied the diverse community needs and, then, strategically prioritized its interventions on environmental restoration and protection, provision of quality primary education and skills training, awareness rising on FGM and social health issues and emergency response during drought & outbreaks.

Candlelight has four departments and each carries out a main strategic intervention. The departments manage and implement enormous projects throughout the country. The departments are run by experienced teams with multidisciplinary and technical skills committed to deliver quality services to the communities in need.

# Governance body

Candlelight is governed by a board of directors of seven members entrusted with overall responsibility of the organization through provision of oversight, leadership and guidance. A management team comprised of heads of departments is headed by an executive director who is in charge of execution of day to day operations in accordance with advice and policies laid down by the board of directors. The board of directors includes:

- Ahmed Ibrahim Awale, Chairman, (Environmentalism, writer and businessman)
- Ali Mohamoud Halliyeh, Deputy Chairman, (AFA/CFP and financial management consultant)
- Amina A. Guleid, Secretary (Educationist and consultant)
- Ahmed Yousuf Elmi, Treasurer (senior officer in money transfer company in Djibouti)
- Ahmed Hussein Nour, Member (Agronomist and development)
- Jawahir Ahmed, Member (Women activist with long experience in community work)
- Sahra Kahin, Member (Lengthy experience in community development work)

## Strategic Philosophy

### Vision statement

To be recognized and respected as a local organization that continues to nurture Somaliland communities that are environmentally conscious, literate, healthy, economically self-reliant, and peaceful.

### Mission statement

Candlelight is a non-governmental organization that strives to bring about positive changes in communities through environmental conservation, provision of quality education and creation of awareness rising on health issues.

### Core values

- Demonstrate integrity, transparency, and respect for the community in all our dealings
- Build relationships with all stakeholders through participation, cooperation, collaboration, team work and open communication
- Make an impact through need-based interventions
- Abide by the laws of the country and advocate positive change

### Objectives

- Working towards the improvement of the environmental situation of the country.
- Advancing education by the provision of facilities for schooling and other learning opportunities as well as vocational training for the youth.
- Improving the living conditions of low-income women, pastoralists and agro-pastoralists by helping them through income generation/diversification activities.
- Awareness creation on health issues and health promotion programs and women's reproductive health.
- Responding to humanitarian needs of affected communities during disasters

# Candlelight Strategic Areas of Focus;

## **Environmental/Livelihood**

- Community trainings on climate change adaptation, environmental protection.
- Training communities on sustainable agriculture practices, nutrients fodder production skills and livestock management practices.
- Environmental protection and restoration through soil and water conservation techniques
- Promoting alternative saving energies.
- Introducing roof water harvesting methods.
- Nurseries management and reforestation program.
- Construction and rehabilitation of water sources (shallow wells & berkads).
- Constructions of gabions and sub-surface dams to reduce water floods.
- Creating income generation/diversification activities with focus on pastoral and agro-pastoral
- Communities. This includes Sisal processing, bee-keeping trainings with inputs, farmer's assistance
- Packages etc.
- Research & documentation.

## **Education & Skills Trainings**

- Running vocational skills training centers in Hargeisa, Burao, Erivago.
- Running primary education schools (Burao & Erigavo).
- Promotion of girl-child education through provision of scholarships for displaced, poor and orphaned girls.
- Conducting motivational speeches in the schools.
- Advocacy on gender awareness in education.

- Provision of primary education for pastoralist children.
- Increasing employment opportunity through creation of small business for students

## **Health and Gender**

- Awareness raising program on FGM/C, HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases (STDs).
- Community education on the effects of Female genital mutilation/cutting (FGM/FGC).
- Design and production of IEC materials on harmful practices of FGM.
- Conducting sensitization FGM training for teachers, CECs, youth, religious leaders.
- Training for trainers (ToT) training on FGM/C.
- TV and Radio debates.
- Posting articles on FGM/C implications on social media networks.
- Training on hygiene and sanitation in pastoral and agro-pastoral communities.

## **Emergency and Humanitarian Support**

- Unconditional cash relief program for disabled and marginalized groups & cash for work during drought aim at booting social economic situation.
- Shelter/NFI and food distribution
- Water trucking to drought effected communities
- Nutrition support and emergency response to AWD/cholera epidemic
- Public Health Promotion (PHP) and Public Health Engineering (PHE)



# ENVIRONMENT AND LIVELIHOOD





Through the integrated environment and livelihood programs, Candlelight continued to empower small holder pastoral and agro-pastoral households to improve production, incomes, and better access to markets. In 2017, Candlelight distributed agricultural inputs (tools and seed), provided tillage hours. Furthermore, target beneficiaries gained knowledge and skills in different aspects of food security, Soil and Water Conservation, agri-business, value addition and cooperatives and financial literacy etc. Across all our livelihood projects, we endeavor to develop ecologically, socially and economically sustainable and acceptable models.

## Project: Reducing vulnerability and building community resilience to climate change effects in Togdheer and Sahil regions, Somaliland

The KNH funded project aims at increasing the resilience of 18,000 resource – poor agro-pastoralists and pastoralists in the target regions of Togdheer and Sahil so they may better cope with the adverse economic, social, and ecological impacts of climate change.

### Improving access to water

To lessen the water shortage caused by the recent drought the project area, 7 more berkads and 9 shallow wells have so far been rehabilitated. The average size of each rehabilitated berkad is estimated at 490 Cubic meters yielding 2,450 barrels of water per berked. Similarly, the shallow wells have been fitted with electric generators and submersible water pumps to ease drawing the water. The rehabilitated water sources have considerably improved water availability throughout the dry season.

### Farmer trainings.

To date, 200 farmers in seven agro-pastoral villages of Qoyta, Beer, Ceelxume Beerato, Odweine, Goda wayn and Calacule have been trained in best agronomic practices and supported with agricultural tools set consisting of a wheel barrow, spade, hoe, shovel, rake and farrows. They also

## Project Highlights

- 7 more Berkads and 9 shallow wells rehabilitated out of 13 shallow wells planned to be rehabilitated in 2017.
- 200 farmers from seven agro-pastoral villages trained in best agronomic practices and supported with agricultural tools and seeds
- Refresher training and veterinary kits support for 20 (1 female and 19 male) CAHWs.
- 20 pastoralist community members involved in the milk production, trading and transportation.
- 60 farmers trained in fodder production and balling techniques and supported with balling boxes.
- 1,690 different fruits and flowers seedlings from the project supported nursery have been distributed to 10 target project villages in Burao and Sheikh.

received cash crop seeds such as Tomatoes, Water Melon, Sweet Pepper, Hot pepper.

Community Animal Health Workers (CAHWs) from 10 villages benefited from refresher training and were provided with veterinary drugs and equipment necessary to start livestock vaccination and treatment in their respective communities. The follow up visit of CAHWs in Beer and Goad wayn revealed improved livestock health and body condition due to improved pasture conditions, following relatively good rains received during the last gu and deyr rains in 2017 but also the services offered by the trained CAHWs.

Milk preservation training was conducted for 20 pastoral community members involved in the milk production, trading and transportation. The training covered topics including methods of milk preservation, hygienic milk practices, milk contamination during retailing and milking, and cleaning of milk equipment. Participants were also taught the common milk borne diseases such as mastitis, brucellosis, Anthrax Endo parasite infestations etc. and their effects. Each of the trainees was also given two brass milk containers used for safe transportation of milk from the point of production to the point of sale. Last but not least, Agro pastoral farmers from 5 villages were trained in fodder production and storage techniques. Farmers learnt skills for rangeland conservation, fodder production and management to enhance their livestock feeding management during the dry seasons. Trainees received balling boxes and will enjoy higher returns from increased animal feeds and income from sale of surplus fodder

## Establishment of mini-nurseries

This year, 1,690 different fruits and flowers seedlings (Luciana, neem, Sisyphus Mauritania, cardia Spp, Guava, tamarind, papaya and assorted flowers) from the project supported nursery have been distributed to 10 target project villages and two main towns of Burao and Sheikh. Follow up visits conducted in May 2017 revealed an 85% survival rate of the seedlings. In addition, a new plant nursery has been established in Gacanlibah and it's expected to produce 1300 tree seedlings which will be distributed to target communities.

## Project Impact

Building on increased capacity of the beneficiaries, the project shows evidence of sustainability beyond the project period. Target community capacity has improved in areas such as Community Managed Disaster Risk Reduction (CMDRR), Soil and Water Conservation and improving natural resource base and environmental restoration, crop and fodder production and value addition and milk production/preservation. This has increased their knowledge and capacity to deal and or cope with the effects of drought.

As a result of the soil and water conservation interventions, communities in Haji Salah, Ali Farah, and Qoyta and war ibran are now flood risk free. People can now freely settle in these areas and also farm the rehabilitated lands.



Milk preservation training and start up milk utensils for women in Burao



Rehabilitation of Berkads in Ali Farah

## Project: Enhanced livelihoods of the agro-pastoral communities in Burao and Sheikh Districts from 2014-2017

Candlelight is one of International Solidarity Foundation (ISF) Finland's strategic partners in Somaliland. Candlelight in collaboration with ISF is implementing a livelihood project titled: "Enhancing Livelihoods of the Agro-Pastoral community in Burao and Sheikh Districts" whose focus is to ensure sustainable utilization of natural resources as well as increasing production mainly in the agricultural sector.

The project goal is to enhance livelihood opportunities and mitigate constraints that hamper livelihood development of the agro-pastoral families in the target areas. The purpose of this project is to improve household incomes through increased sisal production and processing skills. The 4 years project started in January 2014 and has been running up to December 2017, with possibilities of extension based on the community needs and results of an evaluation. The target locations are Godaweyn, Godayar and Galooley under Sheikh District.

The project has had an impressive impact on the lives of the target beneficiaries; fodder and sisal production has increased as a result of project interventions including trainings, equipment and business skills support, Soil and Water Conservation etc. Sisal and fodder trade has further increased from 76% in 2016 to 97.8% in 2017, resulting into

### Project Highlights

- 70 fodder farmers trained on proper fodder farming including plantation, fodder storage and marketing techniques.
- 60 Sisal women beneficiaries trained on sisal plantation, harvesting, processing ,product marketing skills and product designing and finishing
- 4 Balis were de-silted.
- 6% of the target beneficiaries reported to earn above 300 USD in 2017 as compared to 3% in 2016

an increase in average household income; 6% of the target beneficiaries reported to earn above 300 USD in 2017 as compared to 3% in 2016. The prolonged and recurring droughts, land ownership issues have in some cases limited the production of sisal and other crops



Left: Sisal products display shop in Godaweyn, Center: Godaweyn Sisal farms, Right: Sisal farmers carrying their products home

## Project: Improving Food security to build community resilience in Somalia

This is a 4 years (2017 – 2020) project implemented by Candlelight with support from Development Fund Norway. It is implemented in Magalo Cad and Magalo Qaloc villages in Borama district, Awdal Region. The predominant mode of economic mainstay in these villages is agro-pastoralism. The main products are milk, livestock for sale, fodder, cereals for subsistence and cash crops like vegetables and fruits grown on rain fed farms.

### Project achievements for 2017 as per objective and activity

This project is based on 5 outcomes including Social inclusion and gender equity, Food and nutrition security, Adaptive capacity to climate change, Household economy and Civil Society Organizations strengthening.

### Key achievements for the year 2017

#### Outcome 1: Food and nutrition security increased

Two project indicators have shown an increment from the baseline values. First, the nutritional diet of the targeted households increased by 15%. This is attributed to trainings on nutrition and proper feeding in families. Secondly, average food sufficiency per household increased from 35.8 to 39 weeks per year. This comes as a result of mindfulness on food reserve practices by households during the critical months of food shortage. In addition, the number of malnutrition occurrences among the children of target communities has decreased; as reported by health personnel in the villages.

## Project Highlight

- 24,000 square meters of land provided by a local farmer to set up a demonstration farm
- 100 farmers selected and supported with seeds and farming tools.
- 20 female milk producers and collectors trained in milk production
- 20 women and youth trained in Small business management, micro-credit management, and cooperative leadership. 8000 USD provided as start up grant
- 100 grain farmers supported with silos for proper storing of grains.
- 1235.16 cubic meters of check dams constructed for Soil and Water Conservation with a length of 8500 linear meters in Magalo Cad; using CfW approach
- 40 participants attend Community Based Climate Adaptive Village Workshop.
- 20 participants from Magalo Cad and Magalo Qaloc village community committees trained in Good governance and conflict resolution



*Left: Post harvesting of cereal crops, a farmer packaging his production and Right: Land Preparation on a demonstration farm to train local farmers in Magaalo-cad, Awdal region*

## **Outcome 2: Adaptive capacity to climate change increased**

The climate change awareness sessions in trainings and workshops have triggered an increase in community awareness towards climate change impact on farming, natural resource depletion and sustainable use of resources. Climate Adapt Villages (CAV) of Ogow, Qabo & Joogtayn have been formed with an aim of facilitating the adaptation process in communities as well as enhance the adaptive capacity of communities for the purpose of reducing their vulnerability to climate change; this has also triggered awareness to climate change. In addition, the CAV fund was also invested into community climate related infrastructure. All this climate change awareness and Soil and Water Conservation has contributed to increased score of average household adaptive capacity; from baseline score of 2.9 to 3.0 score.

## **Outcome 3: Household economy improved**

Cash for Work activities created short term employment was created for male and female youth in the project area. Furthermore, the project provided small business management training and start-up money for 20 beneficiaries; 8 of these businesses have been reported to be generating profits. On the side of crop production, the yield was much higher than last year particularly sorghum. This increased household average annual income from sale of agricultural produce.

## **Outcome 4: Civil Society Organisations strengthened:**

Training in good governance and conflict resolution, leadership and accountability was conducted for local committees including Village Development Committees, health and education committees, CAV committees, Women in Business groups and cooperatives/ farmer associations. This increased their capacity to function and perform their designated roles.

The progress under this outcome shows that 2 grass root organisations in Magaalo cad village (CAV committees and Women/ youth business cooperative) had increased in capacity compared to the baseline value of zero. Secondly, Candlelight has developed a gender policy and trained its staff on the policy. The policy seeks to ensure greater consistency of gender principles and practices across the organization and provide an accountability framework in relation to gender, against which all staff can be accountable and against which Candlelight will audit itself.

## **Outcome 5: Social inclusion and gender equity**

There is a progress in gender equality and inclusion; with an increment in the Gender gap score up to 0.19 in comparison with the baseline figures. The increment is driven by the establishment of four community grass root organisations such as Women milk cooperative in Magaalo-qaloc village, Women Business

cooperative, CAV community committees and Farmer Associations in Maqaalo-Cad village. These grass-root organisations registered women members; some of them hold decision-making positions.

target villages to adapt to the effects of climate change in the Maroodi-Jeex region of Somaliland.

## Project: Enhancing resilience for communities in 10 villages in Maroodi Jeex region – 2017 – 2019

The project is funded by BMZ through KNH and implemented by 3 organizations including Candlelight, CCBRS and NAFIS. The overall objective of this project is to help increase the resilience and ability of the population in the 10 villages.

### Project achievements for Candlelight in 2017

#### Improved access to water and sustainable management of water catchment areas

9 out of 28 berkads have been rehabilitated in 5 villages. All the berkads have harvested water during the short rainy season and the communities are using it for both domestic and livestock. WASH campaigns were conducted in 3 villages with over 350 people participating in the campaigns. The Campaigns used posters to sensitize communities on the contamination of water caused by open defecation and poor disposal of garbage.

#### More robust livelihoods for pastoralists as a result of improved animal health, animal feed production and access to water

20 Community Animal health Workers (CAHWs) were trained in animal health and veterinary services. The training mainly focused on animal health. Each of the 10 target villages presented 2 male trainees who were trained and equipped with veterinary medicine and equipment to support them carry out community veterinary services. A total of 50 HHs have so far benefitted from the veterinary services provided by the trained CAHWs. Altogether, 200 heads of livestock (sheep, goats, camel) have been treated from different diseases.

### Project Outcome:

12,450 households in Maroodi Jeex region in the districts of Gebilay Adadlay, Sabawanaag, Balli Gubadle and in the town of Hargeisa have strategies for adapting to climate change and their livelihoods improved

## Projects Highlights

- 9 berkads have been rehabilitated in 5 villages.
- WASH campaigns were conducted in 3 villages reaching out to 350 people.
- 20 CAHWs trained in animal health and veterinary services and provided with veterinary kits
- 200 heads of sheep, goats, camel have been treated by CAHWs

## Project: Self Help Group Approach Project



Self Help Group Approach (SHG) book keeping training (left), SHG members meeting

Self Help Group Approach (SHG) is a successful instrument for combating poverty in a sustainable way. It empowers the very poor people of the communities socially and economically to live a life of dignity with their families and community. The Self Help Group (SHG) is breakthrough of changing dependency on humanitarian aid model. Instead, it focuses to promote the strength and the power of the communities as well as unleashing the potential of the communities. The initiative is based on mutual support and encouraging self-reliance of the members and communities.

The Self Help Group Approach (SHG) was initiated in Somaliland in 2013 and was piloted on small groups. After successful achievements of the initiative, the approach was fully started in 2014 and by now Candlelight with support from KnH has formed and trained 98 Self Help Groups (SHGs) in Somaliland particularly Hargeisa and Burao in which 1862 are members. On the other hand, 6 Cluster Level Associations (CLAs: network of SHGs) has formed; each CLA is composed of

200 members from 10 SHGs. The approach has created 1724 small businesses for the members from their saving among. The total amount of their saving is \$83,551.5 and the investment given out to the members is \$137,315.

Key Activities/achievements in 2017:

- 42 New SHGs has formed in Ali Hussein IDP in Burao & Statehouse in Hargeisa.
- 4 CLAs formed in Hargeisa, (one in Mohamed Mooge and three in State house)
- Refresher training for Community Facilitator's (CFs)
- 840 members from the New SHGs trained in SHG Concept and Functions.
- 80 representatives from the newly established CLAs trained CLA concept & management
- SHGs linked to Micro-finance institutions as a vital tool for meeting the financial requirements of those poorer sections of the society.

SHG approach has led to an improvement of socio-economic development of the members' involved.

- ◇ It has changed family lives and it has progressed involvement in community action.
- ◇ Enhanced Self-confidence and social harmony among members
- ◇ Increased Social Support/Capital
- ◇ Members are empowered and are able to claim their rights
- ◇ Family food security boosted; families can afford to have at least three meals a day
- ◇ Access to Education, medical care improved
- ◇ Some members are active participants in political parties activities and campaigns
- ◇ Active engagement with political parties and the government on social issues.

## Key highlights

- In 2017, there are 98 functioning SHGs with a membership of 1862. There are 597 children in SHG members households.
- The total savings as of December 2017 are \$83,551 while the total capital of all SHGs as of December 2017 is \$98,533. By December 2017, the total cumulative loans given out stand at \$137,315 The loan to savings ratio is 1:12.5



*Photo File: Some of SHG Members running their Businesses*





# EDUCATION & SKILLS TRAININGS



## Candlelight Education Sector

Candlelight runs three vocational training centers (in Hargeisa, Burco and Erigavo), two primary schools (Burco and Erigavo) and two secondary schools (Burco and Erigavo). The organization has since supported thousands of children, youth and women to access formal and vocational skills through trainings, tools and micro business startup capital support. Vocational skills graduates are employed by the public and private sectors; while others are self-employed.

Candlelight has a good working relationship with Somaliland Ministry of Education, at both national and regional levels. The ministry provides training curriculum, tools and equipment, Instructors training and certificates to vocational training graduates. The ministry also plays as oversight role towards all education activities. Candlelight is an active member and takes part in education sub-cluster coordination meetings such as; Somaliland education sub-cluster, Technical and Vocational Education Training (TVET) meetings and Education in Emergency (EiE) meetings among others.

Candlelight also has a strong working relationship with community leaders/ elders who play a key role in the design and implementation of education projects. Several Local and International NGOs and UN agencies have enabled Candlelight to implement educational projects; providing financial, material and technical support.



*Candlelight vocational training center in Hargeisa*

Education is a human right, not luxury. But most often this and other rights are turned into luxuries especially during emergencies. The poor and most vulnerable always miss out. Candlelight therefore strives to ensure that vulnerable children (girls and boys) and youth affected by emergencies have access to safe and protected learning environments that encourage retention and increased enrolment in learning.

## Project: Candlelight Primary and Secondary Schools in Burco and Erigaavo

Since 1998, Candlelight runs private formal primary and secondary schools in Burco (Togdheer region). The schools offer quality and affordable education to young boys and girls. In 2017, Candlelight secondary school in Burco had a total enrolment of 522 students while the primary section enrolled 176 students; which is an increase compared to the past years. The students who sat for the final Somaliland secondary examinations performed very well and were ranked 8th among the 10 best schools in Somaliland. This is attributed to several factors including qualified and committed teaching and non-teaching staff, and improvement in the management of the schools.

In Erigaavo (Sanaag region); Candlelight runs primary and intermediate schools. This year, 250 students were enrolled in Grade 1 -4. The school management and parents' committees have had outstanding performance and good collaboration with the regional and central

### Projects Highlights

- Key highlights
- 220 vulnerable Somali returnee households (HHs) supported with basic needs and skills training.
- 400 HHs in 4 villages South of Hargeisa supported with 3 months of Unconditional Cash Transfer of \$100 per household.

education authorities which improved the standards. Next academic year 2018/19, the school will introduce 4 afternoon classes as a response to the request from the communities. This will offer opportunity to more children to access quality formal education.

#### Students' enrolment breakdown

Burco Primary School			
Grade	Female	Male	Total
Grade One	9	4	<b>13</b>
Grade Two	15	12	<b>27</b>
Grade Three	6	4	<b>10</b>
Grade Four	8	3	<b>11</b>
Grade Five	7	8	<b>15</b>
Grade Six	11	13	<b>24</b>
Grade Seven	19	17	<b>36</b>
Grade Eight	27	13	<b>40</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>176</b>

Burco Secondary School			
Grade	Female	Male	Total
Form One	64	81	<b>145</b>
Form Two	53	102	<b>155</b>
Form Three	31	77	<b>108</b>
Form Four	43	71	<b>114</b>
	<b>191</b>	<b>331</b>	<b>522</b>

## Project: Vocational Trainings for Yemen Returnees

Since 2015 the mass return of Somali refugees from Yemen, together with Yemenis seeking refuge in Somaliland; there is an additional burden on host communities which are already struggling to integrate IDPs. With the absorption capacity of these communities already overwhelmed, an integrated approach is necessary to support all the affected communities and provide basic needs where necessary, while developing a strategy for long-term integration.

Today, interventions have only addressed a fraction of the needs and many communities still require additional support. This year 2017, Candlelight with support from Finish Church Aid (FCA) implemented a project supporting the first and second prongs of the approach, targeting 220 vulnerable Somali returnee households (HHs) with basic needs and skills training. 211

trainees were registered from the benefiting households and attended a 3 months (Oct. – Dec. 2017) training conducted at Candlelight training center (TUSMO), located in Hargeisa. Out of these, only 209 graduated. The skills offered mainly included Entrepreneurship, Computer skills, Tailoring, Beautification & Henna, Cookery and Literacy & Numeracy classes. The trainees were also supported with three months cash for food aid and they will receive a livelihood start up grant next year 2018.

In addition, as part of the drought response, Candlelight and FCA supported 400 vulnerable HHs in 4 villages (Gunburaha, Qooladey, Ballikalilil and Baha dhamal) south of Hargeisa with 3 months of Unconditional Cash Transfer of \$100 per household. The cash transfers helped to improve the food security of the benefiting households.

## Skills training graduates

S/N	Skills Training	Male	Female	Total
1.	Tailoring	12	51	63
2.	Computer	12	9	21
3.	Entrepreneurship	22	7	29
4.	Beautification	0	58	58
5.	Cooking	0	38	38
6.	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>163</b>	<b>209</b>



Cooking, Beautification and Tailoring trainees in practical sessions



# HEALTH AND GENDER



Candlelight's health interventions are designed to respond to the health needs of the poor and marginalized communities in the target areas. The main focus is contributing to reduction in maternal and infant mortality, reducing malnutrition, immunization and engaging with both men and women for behavior change on FGM/C practices. We believe that negative behaviors, perceptions and attitudes can best be changed through continued empowerment of rights holders and the communities in which they live. Despite several challenges in 2017, our efforts led to gains in changing the perception and attitude of parents and other stakeholders towards the FGM/C harmful practices.

## Project: Abandoning FGM/C through Community Empowerment and Food Security Improvement

This is a project supported by KNH and implemented by Candlelight in Sheikh District of Somaliland. Candlelight is working in the project sites to address FGM/C through engaging religious and cultural leaders, women, girls and youth; mobilizing village committees and their communities to reach a consensus towards ending FGM/C.

### Key achievements in 2017 against project milestones

Increasing community knowledge on consequences of FGM/C

A baseline survey conducted to serve as a benchmark for the project revealed that 117 out of 150 (78%) of the sample respondents mentioned the existence of FGM/C practice among project target communities. The survey linked high prevalence rate to lower literacy rates where 72% of the target communities are illiterate. The report shows that as a result of this high illiteracy, 76.7% of the target communities are not aware of the harmful effects of the practice. The study further links food insecurity and poverty to the existence and continuation of the practice as parents see circumcised daughters as a source of bride price. Through the year, more data has been collected from healthcare centers (MCHs), Sheikh Hospital by the health workers. The quarterly results show that FGM/C practice prevalence rate is slowly going down

In 2017, the project engaged different stakeholders at national and district level, members from the different community sectors and local authorities. Joint plans of actions were drawn by the different stakeholders to continue sensitizing communities

## Project Highlights

- Project baseline revealed that 78% of the sample respondents mentioned the existence of FGM/C practice among project target communities and that 47.3% of the target communities are willing to continue performing the FGM/C practice on their daughters.
- As part of Candlelight's engagements in the network activities, the Ministry of Endowments has drafted a Fatwa on the type of circumcision to be performed on the girls.
- 192 learners attended literacy and numeracy classes between September and November 2017.
- 3 tillage hours provided to each of the 20 farmers. 122.24 kgs of seeds distributed to 20 selected farmers in Ximan village.

against harmful FGM/C practices, discourage traditional birth attendants who are involved in performing the practice by providing them with skills to create alternative sources of income. To maximize the effort of delivering the awareness messages, public drama events were used, reaching out to many people in the target communities.

Furthermore, 45 influential community members from Sheikh, Dawdama, Cagaaray, Himan, Isku-dar and Hudiso villages were

trained on FGM/C practices; its negative health consequences and delinking the practice from Islamic religion. The training equipped these frontline community members with the knowledge, skills and confidence to act on raising awareness appropriately and effectively against the practice.

Literacy and numeracy classes were also conducted in 6 target villages. The classes are to run for 7 months each year in the first three years (2017 - 2019). So far, 192 learners have attended classes. 124 out of 192 learners were female and 68 male. 51 of the learners were children. Reading, writing and numeracy proficiency has improved among the learners. 89% of the learners who attended classes passed the final tests and they appreciated the opportunity provided by the project. Their self-esteem has improved leading to positive change in their lives; they can also easily express themselves within the community.

Candlelight is a member of the NAFIS network; a network of CSOs fighting to end FGM/C. Candlelight project staff attended meetings to provide institutional and moral backup in the lobbying and advocacy for the approval and implementation of the national anti-FGM/C policy. As a result, the Ministry of Endowments has drafted a Fatwa on the type of circumcision to be performed on the girls. The declaration has been delayed until 2018, due to the presidential elections

## Alleviate poverty and mitigate the vulnerability of agro-pastoral communities

Due to the prolonged dry seasons, pastoralists and marginalized agriculturalists in the project areas have severely been affected by the droughts; leading to negative implications on household food security. In response, the project provided 60 tillage hours and distributed 122.24 kgs of different seeds among the 20 selected farmers in Ximan village. The aim of this activity is to contribute to improving food security among project beneficiary households and reduce the risk of girls being mutilated for the purpose of marriageability. To alleviate water shortage in Dawdama village, one berkad has been rehabilitated. It is expected to benefit about 70 households to get access to clean water.

## Challenges

As a result of the severe droughts and shortfall of the 2017 Gu rains, there was some migration of target communities to main cities in search of livelihood opportunities. The rest of people who remained in villages focused more on their survival than the FGM/C awareness activities. Cultural and religious sensitivities about gender based violence in general and Female Genital Mutilation/ Cutting in particular also constrained the mobilization process during these harsh times.



*Left: Learners attending a literacy and numeracy class, Center: Ibrahim Hayaan Cilmi - a beneficiary farmer dispersing provided seeds over his farm and Right: Construction of a new Berkad in Dawdama village*

## Project: Community education on FGM/C

Candlelight and International Solidarity Foundation (ISF) of Finland share a common goal of tackling FGM/C and its related problems and working towards the eradication of the practice in Somaliland; which is one of the countries with the highest prevalence rates in the world. The project goal is that target communities in Maroodi-jeeh region of Somaliland are more willing to abandon all forms of FGM. The project is implemented in eight villages of Maroodi-jeeh including Darasalaam, Biyo-Shiinaha, Jaleelo, Hamuuradley, Laaya, Gunbuuraha, Qoolcaday and Gerebis.

### Media and Awareness raising

Communication is crucial in changing behavior and the media plays a critical role in creating mass awareness to end FGM/C. It highlights the consequences of this practice on women and girls, their families and their communities. It provides a platform for reporting on the efforts to abandon FGM and protect women and girls' rights. Change can only happen through sustained media attention on the negative consequences of FGM/C as well as on the abuse of the rights of girls.

The media component of this project focused engaging and training 20 media activists (10 Female journalists and 10 Universities students). These were enlightened on the negative consequences of FGM/C and how to use social and electronic media to campaign against FGM/C. Student debates, magazines, drama and short films on radio and Television respectively were also used. Religious scholars also played a key role in responding to the religious misconceptions about the practice. Anti-FGM committees have been set up in the target communities. The members of these committees teach the community on the consequences of FGM/C. The percentage of parents in target villages who wish to put their daughters through some form of FGM/C has reduced from 43% (baseline) to 39%.

## Project Highlights

- Increased number of women and young people willing to speak out against the practice and to 'champion anti-FGM awareness'
- Anti-FGM committees established and functional in target villages.
- University students and 10 female journalists have been formally trained as FGM advocates.
- Religious leaders are speaking out, but it is proving a challenge to change the opinion of some that Sunna Type must not be 'discouraged.'

The project interventions in some areas were constrained by the sensitive nature of the topics of discussion. Some Religious leaders and most traditional leaders in the villages were against zero tolerance. . Stand-alone FGM interventions were also hard to implement especially during the peak of the drought crisis when people were struggling for survival.





*Left: Rural youth and Right: parents attend training on FGM/C and its negative consequences*



*Left: Religious scholar discussing religious misconceptions on FGM/C with rural target community of the project.  
Right: Universities students and female journalists after attending a training on how to write success stories and case studies of FGM/C*

## Project: Integrated emergency response and early recovery support to drought affected communities in Togdheer region, Somaliland

Towards the end of 2017, Candlelight secured funding from the Somalia Humanitarian Fund (SHF) managed by UNOCHA. The fund will be used to implement an integrated project whose objective is to improve the livelihoods of the drought affected communities in Togdheer region of Somaliland. The 9 months project will be implemented in 2 districts of Odweine and Burao in Togdheer region. It will directly reach out to 22,664 beneficiaries. The proposed project's integrated and targeted intervention logic will chiefly put emphasis on

addressing the critical needs of the affected households to help them recover from the effects of the drought but as well laying a basic foundation for fostering recovery. This is largely in line with the Humanitarian Response Plan strategy (HRP), strategic and cluster objectives that aim at ensuring that vulnerable and most affected communities have access to integrated lifesaving support. Full implementation of this project is expected to start early 2018.



# EMERGENCY AND HUMANITARIAN SUPPORT



Today, Candlelight is a recognized and respected actor in the field of responding to the recurrent emergencies in Somaliland. During the AWD/Cholera outbreak in 2017, Candlelight supported communities to access safe and clean water through public water source rehabilitation, provision of water treatment tablets. Hygiene kits were also provided to households to improve their personal hygiene. Pit latrines were constructed in the IDP sites to improve sanitation within the camps. Community health awareness campaigns were conducted in all the project sites to increase people's awareness on hygiene and sanitation issues.

Targeted cash transfer activities were implemented in order to respond to the deteriorating food security situation in the target areas. The targeting criteria included among others human (disability, elderly, ill); economic (loss of livestock); social (no family support, internally displaced) vulnerability. Responding to humanitarian needs was sometimes challenged by limited resources, difficulties in accessing some areas of need due to insecurity and bad roads.

## Project: Comprehensive Cash Assistance in Eastern Somaliland – 2017

Candlelight, in partnership with CARITAS implemented the Comprehensive Cash Assistance in Eastern Somaliland as a response from to the recurrent droughts in Eastern Somaliland which has been greatly been affected. In highlighting the achievements of the above-mentioned project, the food security situation of 720 drought affected vulnerable households in Eastern Somaliland has been stabilized.

In the field of hygiene promotion and healthy nutrition, for the benefit of general community, 10 public awareness WASH campaigns were conducted in all 10 target villages. 1200 Information Education and Communication (IEC) materials with messages on WASH and acute watery diarrhea prevention were printed and distributed to the 10 communities. In order to increase access to clean drinking water, 9 communal berkards as major local water source,

## Project Highlights

- 600 vulnerable HH (3028 persons) received Unconditional Cash Transfer (UCT) for 3 months
- 600 vulnerable households received the necessary Non-food items (NFIs) and hygiene kits, 120 strong and able bodied men were selected for cash for work activities.
- More than 10'800 linear meters of soil bands and gully control measures with brushwood structures were constructed in three sites.
- 300 PLW with malnourished children benefited from nutrition education and one off nutritious food support for the malnourished children less than 5 years.
- 1200 IEC materials with messages on WASH and AWD prevention printed and distributed to the 10 communities
- 9 communal berkards rehabilitated to increase access to water

have been sustainably rehabilitated, through Cash For Work (CfW). The laborers have been hired from the respective communities. The CfW intervention provided (additional) income for 120 families, and also enhanced the ownership for the water sources which have been built.

Finally, 300 Pregnant and Lactating Women (PLW) selected from the UCT beneficiary households with malnourished children, benefited from nutrition education workshops. The workshop contents focused on equipping the mothers with best practices in Infant and Young Children Feeding (IYC) practices. These

also received a one off nutritious food support (dates and oats) for the malnourished children under 5 years.

In conclusion, beneficiary communities reported that the project assistance was timely and helped them to recover from the impact of the severe drought. Communities appreciated as well the provision of NFI, as they up scaled their household assets by kitchen utensils, blankets and sheets. The rehabilitated berkards have brought water closer to the community, which reduces the

distance, which especially women have to move in search for water. The little surviving livestock will benefit from the fodder that is growing in the rehabilitated rangelands especially after the forth coming Gu rains. It is also noted that with the continued poor and below normal rainfall predictions, livelihoods will require sustained support for 2018 to avert famine and in order to begin recovery.



*Left: Finished Birkard in Aurbogays, Center: NFI distribution in Bohol, Right: A mother is shown how to use the Mid-Upper Arm Circumference (MUAC) measure malnutrition in dhoomo, sanaag*

## Project: Emergency response To the AWD/ Cholera Epidemic in Togdheer Region

In 2017 there was an AWD/Cholera outbreak in the republic of Somaliland, mostly affecting Togdheer region and the districts of Borama, Hargeisa and Burao

In order to respond to the situation Candlelight with support from its partner Oxfam implemented a phased Cholera/ AWD emergency response project in Burao (Ali Hussein, Hodan Qaylo, Saylada), Yirowe and Odweine. The response strategy consisted of two approaches; focusing on prevention and control in most affected areas. All WASH related activities were guided by the standard operating procedures and technical support from Oxfam technical staff

Public Health Promotion (PHP)

Community Health Mobilizers (CHMs) and

hygiene promotion

A total of 55 CHMs were selected and trained in transmission and prevention of AWD/Cholera, Hand washing at critical times, Safe water chain, Good and bad hygiene practices and roles CHMs. These CHMs were engaged in activities such as hygiene promotion at household level, community clean up campaigns, hygiene kits and Aqua tabs distribution. As part of creating awareness, CHMs distributed approximately 10,000 different types of IEC materials reaching out to approximately 80,000 people. Candlelight distributed hygiene kits to 5,250 households; each kit consisting of two jerrycans, ibrik, soap and water treatment tabs.

Environmental Cleaning Campaign

Open defecation and garbage littering created the need for environmental cleaning in Hodan Qaylo, Saylada, Yirowe, Odweine and Ali Hussein villages. 155 cleaning kits comprising

of Wheel barrows, Masks, Brooms, Rakes, Gloves and Shovels were handed over to the village committees to support the weekly community cleaning campaigns. Candlelight in collaboration with Burao municipality also organized a mega cleaning campaign in Burao city to create a cleaner and healthier environment. Several spots which were filthy and highly littered were cleaned up.

## **PUBLIC HEALTH ENGINEERING (PHE)**

### **Construction of latrines and distribution of Latrine cleaning kits**

Open defecation was found to be high in the target areas. To improve people's health and prevent the spread of AWD/ Cholera, 113 emergency latrines were constructed in AWD affected areas in Ali Hussein, Hodan Qaylo, Saylada, Yirowe and Odweine. Each latrine was installed with a hand washing station; to promote hand washing after using the latrine as one of most critical times of hand washing. A latrine cleaning kit comprising of Masks, Brooms, Rakes, Gloves and buckets was also provided to the care takers of these latrines. Increasing access to water

### **Installation of communal water storage tanks, water kiosks and Cash for water**

Yirowe village, which is 18 km from Burao city, receives water through trucking. Communities lacked the means to store water for household use. Through the project, 10 communal water storage tanks were installed in the village to be used as distribution points and ease access to clean and safe water. In addition, 2000 HHs from Yirowe and Sayladda were registered and supported with one round Cash for Water. Each household received 15 USD through an electronic money transfer (ZAAD). The Cash for Water approach provided the beneficiaries with the freedom to purchase water at any time when they needed it.

In Hodan Qaylo, Ali Hussein and Saylada, Candlelight in collaboration with the water agency in Burco, constructed 6 water kiosks. The benefiting communities selected two people who will be responsible for managing, protecting and maintaining the kiosks as well as providing water to the community members. Families who were assigned to manage water kiosks receive small income to manage daily household expenses. In

## **Project Highlights**

- 55 Community Health Mobilizers selected and trained
- Approximately 10,000 different types of IEC materials with messages of prevention and management of AWD/ Cholera distributed
- Approximately 80,000 people were reached by the PHP team and the CHM
- 155 environmental cleaning kits handed over to the village committees
- 5220 hygiene kits with aquatabs distributed
- 113 emergency latrines were constructed in AWD affected areas
- 2000 HHs from Yirowe and Sayladda supported with one round Cash for Water. Each household received 15 USD
- 6 water kiosks constructed

Odweyne, one shallow well was constructed as part of the recommendation from a WASH assessment conducted in the district



Left: Beneficiary collecting water, from a water kiosk in Ali Hussein and Right: Finished shallow well in Odwein



New latrine with cleaning tools, Yirowe



Mass cleaning campaign, Saylada, Burao



Hygiene kits distribution

## Project: Building resilience of drought affected communities and IDPs: Emergency WASH and Livelihood support

Against the fragile humanitarian background, Candlelight with support from Oxfam implemented a project to support drought affected communities and IDPs to overcome the effects of the drought. The phased project has so far been implemented in over 30 villages in Sanaag and Sool regions of Somaliland.

## EMERGENCY FOOD SECURITY AND LIVELIHOODS (EFSL)

As part of the preparations for recovery and resilience, Cash for Work (CfW) was used to prepare communities for this period. 200 food insecure households were provided with short-term employment opportunities to give them cash to meet their basic needs and improve their livelihoods. CfW activities included the construction of soil bunds, rehabilitation and dam desilting. The wider communities also benefited from these community assets that address specific community needs. The CfW tools were donated to the respective communities upon completion of the work. Furthermore, over 3000 households were supported with at least 3 rounds of unconditional cash through electronic

transfers (ZAAD) on their mobile phones. Transfer rates were based on the Minimum Expenditure Basket guidelines as set by the Somalia Cash working group. Post Distribution Monitoring reports revealed that the cash transfer program was able to save the lives of many people; giving them the opportunity to purchase the food items they wanted. The transfers also had a positive impact on the local markets



*UCT beneficiary displaying her registration card*

## **PUBLIC HEALTH PROMOTION (PHP)**

As the scare for AWD/ Cholera continued in the project sites, Candlelight responded by training 64 Community Health Mobilisers (CHMs) as a vital element of engaging communities in delivering a complete water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) response for AWD prevention. Community health awareness campaigns (drama, door to door activities and IEC materials distribution) were conducted in all the project sites to increase people's awareness on hygiene and sanitation issues. Over 5000 culturally and contextually appropriate IEC materials were developed with pictorial messaging portraying the target behavior change. These were distributed as part of the hygiene awareness sessions and events at household and community levels. Additionally over 4000 hygiene kits were distributed; with each kit consisting of laundry & body soap, 2 jerricans, ibrik and water treatment tabs. The distribution of these kits and tablets was done with the support

## **Project Highlights**

- Over 30 villages reached in Sanag and Sool regions of Somaliland
- Over 3000 HHs supported with at least 3 rounds of UCT through electronic transfers
- Approximately 200 households supported through Cash for Work.
- 64 Community-based Health Mobilisers selected and trained
- 5000 IEC materials developed with pictorial messaging portraying the target behavior change.
- Over 4000 hygiene kits procured and were distributed
- Up to May 2017, 13,760 barrels/ 344 loads of 8 cubic meters of water were delivered to target villages.
- 12 berkards and 10 shallow wells rehabilitated.
- 40 latrines constructed in the target villages and IDP sites.

of CHMs who also demonstrated how to use the tablets to improve water quality.



*Jerricans which are part of the hygiene kits assembled for distribution*

## PUBLIC HEALTH ENGINEERING (PHE)

Water is one of the most basic needs that every human being needs. In response to the recurrent rainfall failures in Sanag region Candlelight commissioned Emergency Water Trucking to the most severely affected communities as a last resort. Up to May 2017, approximately 13,760 barrels/ 344 loads of 8 cubic meters were delivered to communities in Fadhigaab, Sincaro, Faraguul, Ceel midgaan, Karasharka IDPs, Sabawanaag IDPs, Balan Baal, God waraabe, Siga dheer among others. There were efforts to adhere to the SPHERE quality and quantity guidelines though this was in some cases challenged by the long distances, bad roads. In order to support water storage needs of the communities, 17 metallic water tanks of different sizes were fabricated and installed in 4 villages

of Dhuurmadarre, Laasdomare, Siga-dher and in Xamilka. The water tanks were fitted with kiosks for ease of drawing water from the tanks.



*Water tanks installed in Sabawanaag village*

## Rehabilitation/ improvement of existing water supplies (berkards and shallow wells)

Most of community water sources in the target locations are shallow wells and berkerds. It is a common observation that most of these sources of water are dilapidated and need repair. In 2017, Candlelight repaired 11 berkards and 4 shallow

wells. Upon completion, these were handed over to the communities. This action will increase the amount of water available for household and animal use.



*Left: A finished shallow well in Balanbaal Right: A finished berkerd in Ardag village*



## Construction of pit latrines

To reduce open defecation and promote safe sanitation, Candlelight built 40 emergency latrines in the target sites. Each latrine was fitted with a hand washing station and a latrine cleaning kit given to the caretakers. During the monitoring visits, it was found that the latrines were being used by the surrounding households. The model of the latrine and hand washing facility was designed with the help of Oxfam technical staff. The structure and positioning of the latrines ensured maximum privacy to women and children.



*Emergency pit latrines in Sabawanaag village*

## GENDER AND PROTECTION

Candlelight staff received training and coaching from Oxfam technical staff in all areas including gender and protection. Women, children and the elderly who are the most vulnerable and highly affected by the effects of drought were given high priority throughout the project cycle. The Do No Harm principles formed the basis of the project design and implementation.

# Balance Sheet

Financial Statements  
For The Year Ended 31st December 2017  
**Statement of Financial Position**

	<u>Notes</u>	AS at 31 Dec 2017 USD
<b>Non-current assets</b>		
Property, plant & equipment	1	793,581
Long Term Loans and Advances	2	-
		<b>793,581</b>
<b>Current Assets</b>		
Accounts Receivables	[3]	190,439
Cash in hand	[3]	1,719
Cash at bank	[3]	206,943
		<b>399,101</b>
		<b>1,192,682</b>
<b>EQUITY AND LIABILITIES</b>		
<b>Capital and reserves</b>		
Revenue reserve	[3]	1,185,182
<b>Total</b>	<b>[3]</b>	<b>1,185,182</b>
<b>Current liabilities</b>		
Creditors & Accruals	[3]	7,500
<b>Total Equity &amp; Liabilities</b>	<b>[3]</b>	<b>1,192,682</b>

These Financial Statements were approved by the Board members on  
31 May 2018.

# Candlelight Income and Expenditure

Financial Statements

For The Year Ended 31st December 2017

	AS at 31 Dec 2017 USD	Percentage %
<b>1 Income</b>		
Grant and Donations Received	3,503,055	97%
Other Income (candlelight contributions)	110,012	3%
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>3,613,067</b>	
<b>3 Expenses</b>		
Project Expenses	1,494,529	
Administration Expenses	334,192	
Other Expenses	110,012	
Depreciation Expenses	0.00	
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>1,938,732</b>	
<b>Fund balance as year ended</b>	<b>1,674,334</b>	



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