



2015 Annual Report



Headquarter office: Hargeisa. Sub-offices: Sheikh| Buraol| Erigavo
Liaison office: Nairobi, Kenya
E-mail: candasli@yahoo.com Website: www.candlelightsom.org
Phone: + 252 63 4421059 + 252 63 4426069
Postal address: P.O. Box 15518, Nairobi, 00100 Kenya

Table of Contents

A Letter from the Chairman	2
Note from the Director	3
Acknowledgment	4
Who we are?	5
Governance body	7
Achievements in Environment/Livelihood	8
Building resilience of vulnerable communities to the effects of climate change	9
Enhancing self-reliance among vulnerable communities	11
Improving the human security of pastoral and agro-pastoral communities along the Ethiopia-Somaliland borders	12
Strengthening livelihoods using an innovative approach in Pastoral and Agro pastoral communities	14
Enhancing food security and socioeconomic wellbeing of the Communities	15
Rebuilding Confidence on Land Issues in Somaliland	16
Achievements in education & Skills Training	17
Empowering girls and women through education	18
Enhancing the quality of education among the teens	19
Achievements in Health & Social Issues	20
Achievements in Facilitation of IDPs Durable re-integrations	21
Immediate recovery support for IDPs returning to their villages of origin in Somaliland	22
Empowering women socially and economically through the Self Help Groups	24
Statement of Financial Position	25
Statement of Comprehensive Income	25
Candlelight Financial Resource	26

A Letter from **The Chairman**

Last year, 2015, was another big year for Candlelight. The organization has been expanding its grant-making to better address communities' challenges. This has been happening at a time funds have been shrinking; at a time the non-profit sector in Somaliland has been experiencing hard times. We are proud that Candlelight's activities have positively impacted thousands of community members in all parts of the country.

The programmes of the organization have been devoted to the most critical challenges of Somaliland communities viz. food security, education, humanitarian emergencies, climate change, environmental degradation, and gender based violence.

I am very much confident that Candlelight will grow into new heights in future to address community challenges and work towards the realization of its mission.

Finally, I would like to give my sincere thanks to the members of the Board, their judgment and dedication to doing what is right for the organization is unparalleled. I would also appreciate the energy, commitment and enthusiasm of the Staff, and our development partners for their various contributions for us to reach our target beneficiaries.

Ahmed Ibrahim Awale 
Chair of the Board of Directors

A Note From **THE DIRECTOR**

It is with pleasure that I present the 2015 annual report for Candlelight. This report presents an overview of the significant milestones achieved by the organization in collaboration with other key stakeholders. The immense social, economic and environmental consequences of climate change and deterioration of ecosystems is evident. Somaliland is experiencing these effects which are being felt in the form of droughts, devastated landscapes and livelihoods. Given the precariousness of their livelihoods, among those most affected are marginalized people in the rural areas including women and girls, internally displaced persons and the pastoralists. The burden of securing shelter, food and water largely falls on them, including the constraints on their access to land and natural resources.

In 2015, Candlelight, with support from different actors, kept itself busy in addressing the environmental and humanitarian crises, obstacles to accessing quality education, lack of technical skills among the youth and women and social issues that have health ramifications. It is

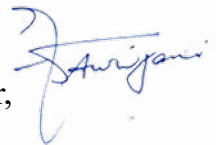
thus important to note that the achievements were as a result of an effective team that used multi-dimensional approaches, which were tailored to the specific needs of the vulnerable communities. The focus was on catering for the immediate needs, while laying out firm and long term structural changes which are sustainable to promote independence and empower the individuals to have the capacity to generate their own income.

The report highlights achievements made which include: promoting sustainable rangeland and forest rehabilitation; building resilience of vulnerable communities to the effects of climate change; enhancing self-reliance among vulnerable communities; improving the human security of pastoral and agro-pastoral communities; strengthening livelihoods using innovative approaches in pastoral and agro-pastoral communities; enhancing food security and socio-economic wellbeing of the communities; rebuilding confidence on land issues in Somaliland; empowering the youth

through skills training initiatives; empowering girls and women through education; enhancing the quality of education among the teens; improving IDPs reintegration and livelihoods; promoting immediate recovery for IDPs returning to their places of origin in Somaliland; promoting reduction of FGM/C practice through integrated community projects and empowering women socially and economically through the Self Help Groups approach.

My sincere gratitude is due to all Candlelight staff who devoted their time and energy to support the underprivileged communities as well as to all of our stakeholders who gave their very best throughout the phases of implementing the projects to ensure the needs of the vulnerable communities are addressed.

Fardus Awil Jama
Executive Director,



Candlelight for Environment,
Education and Health

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Once again, we would like to express our special gratitude to all those who gave us the possibility to successfully implement the projects in this report. The success was made possible due to the technical expertise, financial resources, hard work, determination and collaborative effort made by our different stakeholders.

We are deeply indebted to the government institutions and funding agencies who provided the funds to implement the Candlelight programmes. These agencies provided not only the financial resources but valuable information and guidance throughout the planning and the implementation phases of the project.

We are grateful in particular to International Solidarity Foundation (ISF), the German Federal Ministry for Economic Development through Kinder Not Hilfe (KNH), Care Switzerland through Care International Somalia, OXFARM NOVIB, European Union through FAO, Government of Japan through UN Habitat, Finnish Church Aid, United States African Development Foundation (USADF), UK Aid and the UK Department for International Development (DFID) and the Somaliland Development Fund.

We are also bound to the staff of Candlelight and its leadership for the excellent role they played and the continued commitment to bring about positive changes in communities through environmental conservation, provision of quality education and creation of awareness raising on health issues.

Who we are?



Candlelight for Environment, Education & Health was founded in 1995 as a non-profit making organization dedicated to development issues in under-served 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 80 persons) of whom 30 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 raising 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 multi-disciplinary and technical skills committed to deliver quality services to the communities in need.

Candlelight Strategic Areas of Focus;

(a) 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).
- ◇ Construction 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.

(b) Education & Skills Trainings

- ◇ Running vocational skills training centres 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

(c) Health and Socail Issues

- ◇ 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.

(d) Facilitation of Durable re-integrations

- ◇ Facilitator of voluntary returns for IDPs to their origin communities with livelihood immediate recovery support.

(e) Humanitarian Aid Support

- ◇ Unconditional cash relief program for disabled and marginalized groups & cash for work during drought aim at boosting social economic situation.

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 include:

- » Ahmed Ibrahim Awale, Chairman, (Environmentalist, writer and businessman)
- » Ali Mohamoud Halliyeh, Deputy Chairman, (AFA/CFP and financial management consultant)
- » Amina A. Guleid, Secretary (Educationist and consultant)
- » Ahmed Yousuf Elmi, Treasure (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 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

Candlelight Objectives

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

Achievements in Environment & Livelihoods Sector

Sustainable Rangeland and Forest rehabilitation

The vast majority of the Somali people depend mostly on terrestrial resources for their livelihood. Recent years have witnessed loss of the natural and semi-natural vegetation due to factors such as overgrazing, overexploitation of land and forest clearing which has led to decreased ecosystem services and functions. In addition, fuel wood (charcoal) is heavily harvested at a faster rate than natural regeneration can support. This has imposed serious threats to ecosystem integrity, biological diversity and the ability of the soil to function as water storage and the ability of forests to function as carbon sinks. This severe depletion of the ecosystem has contributed to microclimate changes and the country has witnessed shortage in rainfall with most parts of the country experiencing recurrent droughts. This ongoing ecological degradation has led to low productivity posing negative effects to the Somali people socially and economically. The most affected are the people living in the rural areas.

In order to address these problems, the Ministry of Environment and Rural Development, with the Support of Somaliland Development Fund (SDF) commissioned Candlelight/ADO to implement a project that will focus on enhancing capacity building for sustained natural resource management using a large scale and multi-dimensional approach. The overall goal of this project was to enhance sustainable use of land resources with the aim of upgrading the integrity of the environment and livelihoods through proper rangeland management, effective awareness raising, and promoting the human resource capacity to tackle the pressing socio-economic problems facing the vulnerable communities. The project aims included improving the livelihoods of the pastoral and agro-pastoral households living in the watershed areas as well as areas in the Hawd plateau in Sahil and Marodi Jeex regions and also improving the rangeland condition by strengthening the practice of closing range reserves for proper utilization during the drought periods. In addition, the project involved supporting and creating alternative livelihood skills, training on community based forest resources use, increasing ground cover and reviving the management systems of selected forest reserves.

“Somaliland Development Fund project”
implemented in Gacan-libah, Bookh,
Lafar-ruug and Daallo
HIGHLIGHTS

- » 153,200 linear meters of rangeland rehabilitated
- » Check dams were constructed for remedy of gully erosion to reduce water runoff
- » Trained communities on sustainable management of natural resources focusing on environmental conservation.
- » Produced 63,000 seedlings mostly of endangered plant species
- » Provided beekeeping tool kits to 40 households (hives, tools, suites, smokers, gloves and bee brush) for livelihood support.
- » Provided 2 water pumps
- » Offered extension and capacity building programs to the local community members
- » Rehabilitated 2 berkads
- » Established 2 plant nurseries



Rangeland Rehabilitation Lafa-ruug and Bookh Reserve Sites

Building resilience of vulnerable communities to the effects of climate change

Building the capacity of communities to be resilient is critical to effectively pursuing sustainable development to the vagaries of climate change. Climate change is a worldwide phenomenon with local impacts such as more frequent and severe climate related disasters and changing seasonal patterns, which hampers communities in their development efforts to improve their quality of life. The impacts of climate change have significant social, economic and environmental implications such as on food security water resources, human health and well-being, economy and infrastructure, and biodiversity.

In order to meaningfully address these and other climate related risks and impacts, Candlelight secured grants for implementing a project titled “Reducing vulnerability and building community resilience to climate change effects in Togdheer and Sahil regions, Somaliland” funded by German Federal Ministry for Economic Development Cooperation through our partner Kinder Not Hilfe (KNH). The project aim is to increase the resilience of 18,000 poor agro pastoralists and pastoralists households in 12 villages in Togdheer and Sahil region to better cope with the adverse social, economic, and ecological impacts of climate change.

The project has made significant strides to ensure sustainable management of natural resources and has boosted social economic status of the vulnerable communities. It has also built the communities’ resilience to better cope when facing medium and long term adverse effects of natural disasters.

Various activities have been carried out this year which include: construction of 8000 hectares of land with long lasting contour soil bunds that retain rainwater for natural regeneration in grazing land/reserves and prevent floods; constructed 3 km long dry river irrigation channels; rehabilitated 5 in-ground water catchments (berkads); farmers trained on best agronomics practices to increase yield production and communities were trained on Disaster Risk Reduction to improve community understanding on climate change effects as well as training on sustainable land use and effective management of natural resources.

In addition, inter-agency collaboration between partner NGOs and other stakeholders was strengthened which was one of the key deliverable components employed to ensure success of the project. Candlelight also played a key role in the Somaliland disaster risk reduction working groups (DRR-WG) which have the objectives of increasing coordination, information sharing, institutional capacity building and advocacy on DRR issues. Moreover, the project focused on facilitating communication between community committees, district administration and line ministries for holistic and collaborative approach to tackling DRR issues in the country

“German Federal Ministry for Economic Development through KNH” HIGHLIGHTS

- » Rehabilitated 8000 hectares of land for soil & water conservation
- » Constructed 3km long dry river irrigation canal.
- » Rehabilitated 5 in-ground cemented water catchments
- » Constructed 2 sand storage dams
- » Conducted community trainings on best agronomics practices and sustainable use of effective natural resources.
- » Conducted community trainings on Disaster Risk Reduction
- » Offered capacity building programs to the Ministry of Environment and Rural Development
- » Conducted fodder production training
- » Conducted milk preservation training



Construction of sand storage dams across seasonal water courses and soil bunds

Enhancing self-reliance among vulnerable communities

The overall goal of the project was to empower the most vulnerable women in the rural areas to be self-reliant and be able to earn a living and support their families. In Somaliland, the most vulnerable are rural women who are often left in the household to raise children, take care of livestock and earn an income while their husbands in many cases are not productive in raising the economic status of the family. The widespread use of Khat (*Catha edulis*), a plant whose leaves are chewed mainly by men with stimulant and euphoric effects consume the bulk of the income of men. These women are highly predisposed to the effects of Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV). They are also vulnerable to drought effects because they have minimal control over the household budget management and they are not able to have any influence in decision-making.

This project was jointly implemented by Care International and Candlelight targeting 28,362 pastoral individuals in 4,727 households within 46 villages, living in drought affected areas of Sool & Sanaag region with a specific focus on rural women from vulnerable households. Knowing that women suffer disproportionately from poverty and marginalization, the emphasis of the project was to work with women to create permanent social change.

The major achievements of this project include: establishment of 25 new village Saving Loan Association (SLA) women groups in 39 villages in Sool and Sanaag region; trained the women groups on basic literacy and numeracy sessions, entrepreneurship skills, vocational skills, household budget management, leadership and decision making skills. These skills empowered them to be independent in creating economic opportunities, to generate alternative income schemes for their families. The project has not only addressed the immediate needs, but has also established a system to help the communities to be resilient and able to cope with the effects of future climatic shocks.

In addition, the project addressed environmental degradation by supporting project participants practicing charcoal production to pursue other alternative livelihoods as well as engage in construction of check dams, which have positive impact on regeneration of grazing lands areas.

“Towards Self Reliant project funded by Care Switzerland through Care International Somalia”
HIGHLIGHTS

- » This project targeted 28,362 pastoral individuals within 46 villages in Sool and Sanaag region
- » The project invested 6000 business ideas and created alternative income for the target communities
- » Established of 25 new village Saving Loan Association (SLA) women
- » Conducted skills trainings that economically empowered women



Women training on literacy and numeracy and Training women on milk preservation, distribution of milk jugs

Improving the human security of pastoral and agro-pastoral communities along the Ethiopia-Somaliland borders

Pastoralists and agro pastoralists in Somaliland face daunting challenges due to vulnerability to recurring droughts exacerbated by climate change in the region. They are also predisposed to multiple hazards such as conflict and natural stresses which affect their quality of life. Pastoralism in the dry lands of these regions has been possible due to the complex land use system which was developed out of the need to constantly adapt to the extreme climatic uncertainty and marginal landscapes of the dry lands. This strategy has proven to be the most productive economically and efficient in conserving the environment of these remote areas.

Although significant improvements have been achieved, this adaptive strategy is currently being undermined by a variety of factors. Findings from community meetings and discussion revealed that the pastoralists are facing the following challenges; restrictions to their mobility; privatisation and enclosure of communal grazing land; degradation of key resources (water and pasture) and weakening of social structures that traditionally managed natural resources.

In response to these challenges, a need was identified to initiate a project that will advocate for a serious policy shift from repeated reactive emergency responses, to laying the foundations for building resilient communities, and improving the human security of pastoralists along the Ethiopia-Somaliland border using a holistic approach to tackle the integrated causes of conflict. Different partners including: Candlelight, SOLPAF, Havoyoco, HIRDA in collaboration with OXFAM NOVIB were called upon to implement this project. Candlelight's specific focus was to implement a project with the aim "Pastoralist and agro-pastoralist communities are more resilient to causes of insecurity/ disasters (drought and conflict)".

The target population for the project was 10 villages in Maroodijeex and Togdheer region. The distinctive accomplishments include; trained communities on fodder production techniques and value addition for better market opportunity and also soil and water management to revive degraded land. Two (2) physical market structures were rehabilitated and a system was created on to facilitate even dissemination of market information to the communities to ensure easy access to the markets. Women and youth (120) were trained on various vocational skills which can earn them a living such as; Pastry, Beekeeping, Masonry and Tie & Dye with start-up tools. 25 women received technical support and start up capitals to start small businesses through the

"Dutch Reconstruction Cross Border project"

HIGHLIGHTS

- » Distribution of farming inputs to 72 women farmers
- » Trained farmers on fodder production techniques
- » Built 2 market structures
- » Trained 120 women/youth on various vocational skills
- » Provided technical and financial support to 350 women groups
- » Trained communities on fodder production



Income diversification: vegetable production



Beekeeping training and, tie and dye cloth making

Strengthening livelihoods using an innovative approach in Pastoral and Agro pastoral communities

Somaliland is currently experiencing a progressive and sustained deterioration of livelihoods which is exacerbated by a combination of multiple reinforcing shocks including drought, accelerated environmental degradation and climate change. The shortage of grazing and browsing matter have put pressure on the normal coping mechanisms of the pastoral and agro-pastoral communities, and thus made them more vulnerable than ever before to climatic shocks. In both periods of drought and torrential rains, emaciated animals die in great numbers. Thus, International Solidarity Foundation (ISF) in collaboration with Candlelight initiated a project that focused on: improvement of fodder productivity through trainings on agronomic practices; value chain addition for better marketing techniques to improve income for the rural household families; enhancing land fertility through soil and water conservation activities and increasing water availability and access through de-silting earth dams.

In addition, the project introduced new and sustainable alternative income generating activity with the aim of diversifying livelihoods through innovative and environmentally-friendly products in sisal processing. Women cooperatives were trained to produce sisal products such as baskets, door mats, table mats which created employment opportunities, enhanced family income and met the needs of the market. Overall, the project has significantly contributed towards enhancing the ability of the target groups to be more resilient to the effects of recurring drought conditions.



Farm tillage support, sisal nursery, women displaying their sisal products, sisal decorticators.

“International Solidarity Foundation (ISF) and Candlelight project” HIGHLIGHTS

- Distributed 30 kg high nutrient fodder/forage species
- Supported 30 fodder farmers and 30 Sisal farmers on tillage hours for land preparation with farm inputs
- Rehabilitated 9200 LM of degraded land
- De-silted and constructed two earth dams with lining plastics
- Trained 60 females on sisal processing, business and leadership skills
- Established small scale nursery for production of sisal seedlings
- Planted 4860 sisal trees and distributed to the sisal women farmers.
- Distribution of agricultural hand tools for the 60 sisal women groups and 30 fodder farmers.
- Procured 4 Decorticator and 4 twine machines for sisal production.
- Distribution of Sisal protection and safety materials including hand 60 gloves, 60 shoes, and 60 mask cover for the month.
- Trained 60 women in sisal processing and production.
- Creation of marketing linking associations to the women groups by conducting visits to Burao, Hargeisa and Berbera

Enhancing food security and socioeconomic wellbeing of the Communities

The Somaliland economy is mainly dependent on pastoral livestock and crop production. Every rural family depends - partially or entirely - on livestock and farming for its livelihood and food security. Both are important for subsistence and cash income and have potential for higher gains. However, the Somaliland agricultural and livestock sector faces several challenges that are reducing competitiveness and preventing it from meeting its production potential. Beyond the country's vulnerability to climatic shocks, there are other key factors contributing to poor agricultural production such as; droughts, overgrazing, water scarcity, declining soil fertility for farming production and climate change. The combination of the aforementioned factors has also led to a state of chronic food insecurity and widespread poverty.

In order to meet these challenges, Candlelight in collaboration with Development Fund has been implementing a project in Suuqsade under Sheikh District with the aim of enhancing food security and socioeconomic wellbeing of the target communities. The project sought to address the underlying causes of the problems and the most urgent needs of these communities.

The main achievements of the project were: (a) improved availability of clean water, (b) implemented soil and water conservation activities to increase soil fertility that will consequently increase agricultural production, (c) provided training to communities on agronomic practices in dry lands farming, milk production and animal husbandry practices, (d) introduced micro-credit facilities with the aim of diversifying income base, particularly among women and (e) strengthened the capacity of existing communities in the target areas on issues relating to natural resources management, good governance as well as program management and sustainability.

"Candlelight in collaboration with Development Fund implemented a project" HIGHLIGHTS

- Rehabilitated two in-ground water catchments
- Distributed seed & tools to 100 farmers
- Provided business startup capital for 15 women
- Rehabilitated 8500 LM of land
- Established demonstration sites for fodder production
- Community trained on milk preservation, water, hygiene and sanitation, natural resource management and good governance.



Rebuilding Confidence on Land Issues in Somaliland

Somaliland is currently facing massive problems in relation to enclosures, evictions, and disputes over access to pasture, rangeland, agricultural land, urban land and other natural resources. Livelihoods of people in Somaliland without access or with very limited access to land and other natural resources leads to difficulties in building up tangible assets such as livestock, seeds and facilities related to food production and poor recovery after natural shocks. Political factors, environmental changes, regional alterations and conflicts influence and shape the dynamics of rural areas. It was found paramount to mitigate these challenges through a territorial and process oriented approach based on human rights. This is an approach that would enable local communities to protect their rights and livelihood systems and be able to engage in policy dialogues and other decision-making processes. Land governance is an issue that has far reaching consequences relating to food production and security. The disputes over land rights and rights to natural resources negatively affect the livelihoods of many families.

“Candlelight in collaboration with FAO implemented a project” HIGHLIGHTS

- Carried out mapping exercise in 24 selected villages
- Establishment of 12 negotiation tables in four districts of Baki, Boroma, Gabiley and Hargeisa by using Participatory and Negotiated Territorial Development (PNTD), Improving Gender Equality in Territorial Issues (IGETI) and Participatory Land Delimitation (PLD).

In response to the above, Candlelight has been implementing a project designed by FAO and funded by European Union to enhance the institutional and community capacity to engage in land governance and policy development. Thus, the project aims to improve dialogue and communication skills between different stakeholders involved with resolving land disputes and the community’s ability to deal with land disagreements.

The achievements made included; a mapping exercise in 24 selected villages; capacity building (trainings); establishment of 12 negotiation tables or dialogue forums in four districts of Baki, Boroma, Gabiley and Hargeisa. The purpose of the dialogue forums was to develop a mechanism that will stimulate dialogue and the participation of grass root pastoral, agro pastoral and other multiple stakeholders in Somaliland.

The trainings were implemented on the basis of FAO participatory methodologies in order to reinforce the capacity of selected CBOs, CSOs and or Self-Help Group’s (SHG). Hence, be well equipped to engage in land governance, negotiation tables and mobilization of stakeholders at all levels by incorporating diverse opinions in the decision-making process. The FAO participatory methodologies included: Participatory and Negotiated Territorial Development (PNTD), Improving Gender Equality in Territorial Issues (IGETI) and Participatory Land Delimitation (PLD)



Community village mapping resources

Achievements in Education & Skills Training



One of the female beekeeping trainees

“United State African Development Foundation”
This project was implemented in Sahil and Togdheer region.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Candlelight successfully trained 95 students with marketable skills in pastry, tailoring, beekeeping, carpentry and hospitality.

Youth empowerment initiative through skills training

Over the past decades, Candlelight has been playing a significant role in creating job opportunities to reduce the youth unemployment rates in the country. This has been made possible by equipping the youth with marketable skills through intensive skills training course. The major courses that the youth were trained on in the year 2015 were: pastry, tailoring, beekeeping, carpentry and hospitality. The courses were also integrated with entrepreneurship skills, small business management skills, customer care skills, creativity and also innovative ideas when setting up business plans.

A total of 95 students took part in the trainings and completed the courses successfully. After graduation, majority of the trainees were able to get job opportunities in workshops, restaurants and government institutions. More than ever, youth are able to earn and secure their own living as well as contribute to their family income. The project has significantly transformed the socio-economic status of the trainees and improved their livelihoods. Social and behavioral changes have also been observed among this young men and women. They are using their time more resourcefully and keeping away from illegal activities such as participating in criminal activities or illegal migration.

Empowering girls and women through education

Girl's education has been one of the primary roles of Candlelight since its inception. Educating a girl is like educating the whole generation. Candlelight is implementing a project focusing on increasing the quality of education, and the quantity of girls going to school in rural areas, through enhancing communities' awareness on the importance of girls' education. The project area is Ainabo, El-Afweine and Erigavo.

Over the year 2015, the main activities included: establishing literacy and numeracy classes, training women mentors, establishing a parent/teacher forum, establishing a girl's forum, and providing scholarship grants to 37 primary and 3 secondary schools.

The promotion of girls' universal education yielded positive results in promoting gender equality, female empowerment and poverty alleviation. The project also brought a positive economic impact to the families of the 383 girls who received \$40 and the 37 teachers who received \$150 incentive for eight months. In addition, awareness raising on the importance of girls' education is expected to increase enrollment and decrease dropout girl's rate in primary and secondary schools. The project also improved the management capacity of the schools through the management course training that was offered to 40 schools through CEC. This initiative improved governance and the infrastructure of the schools and will gradually improve the quality of the girls' education.

"UK Aid and the UK Department for International Development (DFID) Through CARE International Project" HIGHLIGHTS

- Conducted 25 literacy and numeracy classes for four months
- 37 schools had Community Education Committees (CEC)
- 73 women trained on mentorship from 40 target schools
- Conducted 39 parent teacher forums and 28 girls forums
- 383 disadvantaged girls received scholarship grants



A session of Community education committee meeting in one of the school supported by the project

Enhancing the quality of education among the teens

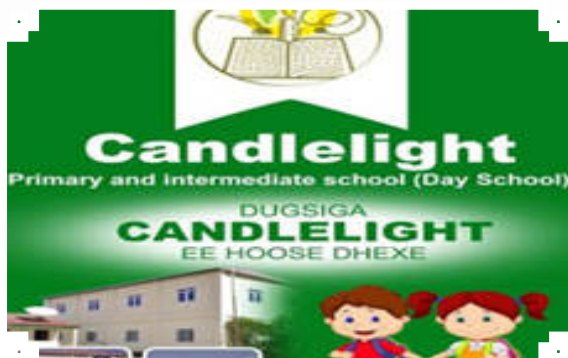
Education is central to development and to the improvement of the lives of young people. Although there has been progress in increasing access to primary and secondary education, this progress has often been accompanied by necessary provisions for ensuring quality, resulting in minimal impact on the lives of learners and increasing opportunities to join institutions of higher learning to attain degrees that will enhance their social participation and employment opportunities, as well as the resultant earnings and improved quality of life. Since 1998 Candlelight has been running a secondary school in Burao. The school performed exemplary in their last year (2014-2015) form four examinations recording the highest grades among other private secondary schools in Burao. It is worth to mention that 40% of the students passed with straight A's. The school has been performing exemplary with good performances since its establishment.

Candlelight primary and secondary schools, Burao and Erigavo

HIGHLIGHTS

- Candlelight Burao Secondary School was established in over two decades
- Over 4000 of students have graduated from the school.
- Currently Candlelight Burao and Erigavo secondary and primary school are hosting 747 students.

This better performance is attributed to rigorous follow ups and dramatic changes that were made among the teachers. Some of the retired teachers were given retirement packages and were replaced with young qualified teachers. The current enrollment at Candlelight secondary and primary school is 630 students. In addition, in the late 2015 Candlelight management decided to open a primary school from grade 1-4 in Erigavo to replicate the best practices of Candlelight Bura schools to the Erigavo, the capital city of Sanaag region. The need was identified following a situational analysis that revealed that there was a dire need to enroll pupils in these lower grades as compared to the upper grades. Currently, the primary school enrollment stands at 117 students and functionally at par.



Achievements in Health & Social Issues

Reducing FGM/C practice through integrated community projects

Female genital mutilation/cutting (FGM/C) has for many centuries been, and still is a very common practice in Somaliland. The prevalence rate of FGM/C is 98% with most of the girls undergoing circumcision at the age between 6-14 years according to a study conducted in 2014. The root cause of the problem is that it is well grounded in the cultural beliefs and morality of the people, founded on a predominant belief that the procedure maintains virginity, controls unbridled sexual urge and has a purifying action. The preconceived belief is that an uncircumcised girl is unchaste and not fit for marriage, and the removal of some parts of the female organ guarantees community acceptance of the girl for marriage and for other social functions. It is also believed that FGM/C plays a role in safeguarding the girl to maintain her virginity till marriage which means an honor for the family of the girl. Other causes of the problem include: widespread ignorance, wrong beliefs of attributing FGM/C to Islam and conflicting views of religious leaders on FGM/C.

Some of the driving forces of which perpetuate the practice of FGM/C includes the economic gains for FGM/C practitioners when they perform the procedure and lack of policies to outlaw FGM/C. While there is a policy in Somaliland which makes the practice and performance of Type III circumcision illegal, it is silent about the other severe types of FGM/C that are performed under the name of “Sunna” which is regarded as a less severe form of FGM/C. In addition to these driving forces, the authorities are incapable (or even have no interest) of taking action against those who breach the policy in relation to Type III circumcision.

In response to these problems, Candlelight over the past 3 years has been implementing a project on “community education of FGM consequences and livelihood support in Sahil regions” in collaboration with Kinder Not Hilfe, a Germany organization. This is an integrated project which equally addresses the problem of FGM/C and supports communities to improve and sustain their livelihoods. Some of the main activities of the project included: farmers’ assistance packages, water sources rehabilitation, cash for work for environmental rehabilitation and road rehabilitation by lowering transportation costs and improving feeder roads and also empowered women through literacy and numeracy program. As a result, this integrated project has brought not only a great impact by changing community perceptions towards FGM but also boosting the social economic status of the communities and the capacity to minimize environment degradation.

“Kinder Not Hilfe Project” HIGHLIGHTS

- 329 students attended all seven centres with 66% of these being female.
- Provided hand tools to 105 farmers and 15 farmers from each of the six villages receiving four items (wheelbarrow, pickaxes, shovels and rakes)
- Carried out soil and water conservation at Gugux village to rehabilitate degraded farmland and increase rainfall effectiveness
- Rehabilitated 10km access road was in Kalwarabe village
- Aired television debates on the harmful effects of FGM with the help of Horn Cable Television
- Conducted community mobilization sessions on FGM in rural villages



FGM/C training and sensitization held for the youth in Burao

Achievements in Facilitation of IDPs Durable re-integrations

IDPs Reintegration and Livelihood Improvements

IDPs Reintegration and Livelihood Improvements

Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) are highly vulnerable individuals who experience significant deprivation of basic necessities such as food and shelter, are frequently impoverished and suffer from discrimination. Furthermore, the IDPs suffer from problems and violations related to poor, security and protection. Candlelight has been strongly working to address the needs of the displaced communities by improving their living standards and providing durable solutions for reintegration and resettlement in IDPs settlements in Burao.

The Government of Japan through UN Habitat funded a project that was implemented by Candlelight. This project offered skills training to women and youth on vocational skills training such as; tailoring, henna decoration, plumbing and carpentry to enable them to improve their livelihoods and raise the family income. 80 students were successfully trained and equipped with different skills and they also received start up tools. The community committee was also trained on leadership skills to facilitate reintegration process of the IDPs within the host communities.

“Government of Japan through UN Habitat project” HIGHLIGHTS

- Provided skills training to 80 male/female youth with marketable skills
- Constructed community centre and water reservoirs and water tanks
- Contributed to reduced unemployment rate in the region
- Provided leadership skills to community members



Skills training: Henna decoration and tailoring course

Immediate recovery support for IDPs returning to their villages of origin in Somaliland

Successive droughts, which severely hit the pastoralist community in Somaliland, resulted to exhaustion of meager pasture and water sources, many families lost their livestock due to the severe water shortage and deterioration of pasture and grazing land. Following this tragedy, there was a large scale migration of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) from their villages/rural areas to urban areas and the number of IDPs has been increasing as they seek for basic necessities of life due to loss of livestock which was their sole means of generating income. This observation that was made is in line with the IDPs survey conducted as part of the project activities.

These IDPs face significant challenges having lost their livelihood and socio-economic status due to natural or man-made disasters. In Somaliland, the ongoing environmental degradation, climate change and recurrent droughts led to establishment of IDP camps. For instance, in Burao there is an IDP camp which has become the destination point for many IDPs. Though many of the IDPs have been slowly seeking reintegration into their host communities, they find life in those settlements challenging and unbearable due to lack of necessary skills, resources and contacts that may assist them in getting employment or becoming self-employed. The IDP settlements where they live are also short of the basic social services.

In light of the above highlighted challenges and obstacles, Candlelight in collaboration with Finnish Church Aid (FCA) designed and initiated a project to improve the living conditions of IDPs by facilitating their voluntarily return to their village of origin and providing them with resources to begin new lives.

The primary beneficiaries were 200 poor IDP households who were autonomously willing to return to their village of origin and 50 hosting communities. The project activities entailed provision of Non-Food Item (NFI) kits, whereby each household received 18 goats for animal restocking and a food voucher worth USD 100 for 4 months. In addition, Candlelight provided transportation services to the beneficiaries to move with their package to 12 villages where the IDPs originally came from. It's evident that the project had positive outcomes economically, socially and environmentally. It's also perceived that the villagers benefitted from the increased population size when small income businesses were created. The number of customers' increased, social cohesion and integration among the communities was enhanced and the villagers were enlightened on environmental protection through awareness raising by the project team.



Selection of beneficiaries for livestock re-stocking support



Distribution of female gotas to target beneficiaries



Empowering women socially and economically through the Self Help Groups

The Self Help Group (SHG) approach was introduced in Somaliland by KNH in late 2013 but rooted down in 2014 following selection of committed and dedicated promoting NGO's. Since then, these promoting NGO's have been constantly engaged with women empowerment and social enhancement programs in Somaliland. The approach was initiated as a pilot project in Hargeisa, the capital city of Somaliland and currently the program is being introduced gradually to other cities like Burao.

SHGs are small groups of 15 to 20 women and each group develops a saving and credit scheme, which provides an opportunity to economically empower each member of the group. The approach is founded on the premise of mutual support and self-reliance. Since 2013, Candlelight has made tremendous achievements in improving the livelihoods of thousands of women and children through the Self Help Group approach which has: provided opportunities for women to be entrepreneurs; empowered families to ensure children have access to education; enhanced healthy relationships among SHG women groups in their vicinity as well as supported government initiatives to enhance security. The main activities of the year included: formation of 20 new Self Help Groups (SHGs), formation of 2 Cluster Level Associations (CLAs), continuous capacity building trainings and regular monitoring assessments to ensure that weekly meetings, savings, and investments are taking place.

Self Help Group Approach: Kinder Not Hilfe HIGHLIGHTS

- 11 promoting organization are working for SHG approach in Somaliland
- Candlelight alone has established 1020 women members with a capital of \$59,660,00



Statement of Financial Position

As at 31st December 2015

	Notes	2015 USD
NON-CURRENT ASSETS		
Property, plant & equipment	1	857,326
Current Assets		
Accounts Receivables	[2]	51,062
Cash in hand	[2]	8,605
Cash at bank	[2]	230,886
Total current assets		290,553
Total Assets		1,147,879
EQUITY AND LIABILITIES		
Capital and reserves		
Revenue reserve		1,104,360
Total		1,104,360
Current liabilities		
Creditors & Accruals	[3]	43,519
Total Equity & Liabilities		1,147,879

Statement of Comprehensive Income

For The Year Ended December 31, 2015

	2015 USD
Receipts	2,533,924
Expenditure	2,487,782
(Deficit)/surplus	46,142

Statement of Reserves

	2015 USD
Accumulated fund balance B/F	1,058,219
Surplus/(Deficit) for the year	46,142
Accumulated fund balance C/F	1,104,360

Candlelight Financial Resource

Income	Total in US\$	%
Form Donners/INGO	2,421,358	88%
Income From UN agencies	235,053	9%
Organizational contribution	95,211	3%
Total Revenue	2,751,622	100%
Spent	Total in US\$	%
Education	165,329	7%
Environment	711,796	29%
Health	180,844	7%
Income generation	252,623	10%
IDPS support	609,773	25%
Administration cost	125,347	5%
Personnel cost	399,843	16%
Other cost	7,013	0.3%
Fundraising	8,500	0.35%
Total Expenses	2,461,068	100%

Fund balance for the year Ended	290,553	11%
----------------------------------------	----------------	------------



2015 Annual Report

CANDLELIGHT

for environment, Education & Health