



# **CANDLELIGHT** for Environment, Education and Health

**ANNUAL REPORT**

**2013**

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# Improving Women's Status through Economic Empowerment in Somaliland

## Women empowerment training

Shiekh, Sahil region



This is a two-year project that began in December of 2012. Candlelight worked in 17 villages in Sahil and Maroodi Jeex to build sustainable livelihoods for the project target groups. The goal was to strengthen the economic status of women and enable them to be involved in developmental activities in Somaliland, and at the same time issues related to decision-making and political participation. So far the activities implemented have focused on improving knowledge and business skills, advocacy for women's economic rights, and environmental protection. The project helped 300 women and their organizations with the knowledge and skills to advocate and promote women's social and economic rights. With the help of Candlelight, these women have the means to generate an income and build a livelihood.

# Basic Education for Pastoralist Children Project in Sanaag region

Pastoralist communities make up a large portion of the Somali population. Most pastoral children in Somaliland do not have access to any form of education. Basic Education for Pastoralist Children Project in Sanaag region was a program that ran during 2013 and before. The aim of the program was to provide quality, inclusive and equitable basic education services to children living in pastoral regions of Somaliland. Candlelight's goal was to contribute to the fulfillment of the rights of all children with particular attention to girls and disadvantaged groups. Some of the activities that took place during the program were: the creation of mobile schools, support for teachers, education awareness programs and audio radio teaching airing. Educational programs in pastoral communities have been delivered in creative ways. One way was through a camel library. It was equipped with two boxes of books, mats and a tent and it was staffed with a librarian and camel herder.

## Primary education for pastoralist children,

Sanaag region



A good example of the change brought by the project is raised by a participant in the program who lives in Dhoobo village. Prior to the arrival of Candlelight on the scene, the students in Dhoob village were studying in a makeshift school under a tree. Now they have a full furnished classrooms, as can be seen in the below picture. A participant of the program Amiin Hirsi said "We didn't have anything yesterday, but today we have a complete school".



# Youth employment and training

The Youth Employment and Training project was a one year program which was created to reduce unemployment among youth in Somaliland. In order to do so, Candlelight worked to provide the youth with the means to create their own livelihood. It was important for Candlelight to pay particular attention to girls. There were 140 participants out of that number more than half were female. The project tackled three areas:

The first was to enhance trainees' skills through upgrading, refresher courses, and provision of new skills. The second was to equip trainees with the tools of their trades, equipment and safety materials so that they can easily access the labor market. The third, was the project provided some grants to the trainees to start small scale businesses.

The success of the program is seen in the improved lives of the participants. Abdirizak Muse Osman is a 25 year old man. He suffers from several disabilities and has been unemployed for several years. He is a father of 4 kids and was in desperate need of employment when he participated in the Youth Employment and Training program. After graduating from the program he opened an electronic repair mini-workshop. Today he is happily self-employed and earning income to raise his family.



Youth employment and training programme, Buroa Togdheer region

# Girl's Education Promotion Project

The Girl's Education Promotion Project is a program implemented by Candlelight and funded by Oxfam. It is a two year program that began in 2012 and is still running. The program participants are 1530 girls aged 12 to 35 from some of the poorest areas of Somaliland including Maroodijex, Togdheer, Awdal, and Sahil. The overall goal is to support education for girls and improve the status and social condition for women in Somaliland. This is done through the provision of training to girls and raising community education awareness on the barriers girls face in Somaliland.

The girls were provided with the opportunity of gaining literacy, numeracy, mathematics, tailoring, tie-dying and henna decoration. There have been a number of positive impacts. The dropout rate of girls in the targeted areas has decreased. For older girls, the project enabled them to either continue their education or to start income generating activities to earn income to support their families.

Rahma Ahmed Nuur participated in the henna decoration program. Today she uses the skills she learned to run a small business. Her henna business has earned income and she is now able to contribute to her household. She looks forward to one day expanding her business and opening a full beauty salon.



**Girl's education promotion programme, Hargaisa**

# Girl's Education Challenge

Even though great strides have been made in the education system in Somaliland since the past two decades, yet there is high illiteracy and unemployment rate. Due to a variety of social, cultural and political factors, education for girls in particular is lagging behind. Candlelight has been proactive in the promotion of girl's education and in this particular project decided to address some of the education challenges faced girls. The Girl's Education Challenge is an ongoing program that began in June, 2013 and will run until May, 2015. The aim of this program is to increase the number of girls going to school in rural areas. The project locations are those areas that have not received much attention in the past,

including Ainabo, Eilafweyn, Erigavo and Badhan districts. So far, the program has had 1,080 participants in 36 villages. The program focuses on primary education for girls and their retention in schools. The activities include facilities improvement, teacher training, and community awareness on the importance of girl's education. As this program moves on Candlelight hopes to give these girls access to a quality primary and secondary education. Other project activities include training for project staff and community members do no harm training, conflict analysis training, security training, child protection policy self audit and communication for social change strategy training.

# Youth Education Pack

Youth Education Pack (YEP) was a skill-providing project that targeted youth between the ages of 15 and 25 years who were from internally displaced families in Erigavo (Sanaag region) and surrounding areas. This project was funded by NRC and implemented by Candlelight in collaboration with the Ministry of Education. The overall goal of the Project was to enhance protection and promotion the rights of the displaced people by improving living conditions and seeking durable solutions to poverty. During 2013, 120 youth were trained in different skills such as Henna beautification, carpentry, masonry, plumbing, tailoring, electricity and electronics.

The youth gained skills in functional literacy and numeracy and they were taught entrepreneurship, peace education, human rights and HIV/AIDS awareness. All 120 participants have graduated and passed their examinations with outstanding marks. With the skills they learned from this project, the youth participants were able to gain employment.



**Youth Skills training for Plumbing, masonry, and carpentry – Erigavo Sanaag region**



Youth Skills training for Plumbing, masonry, and carpentry Erigavo, Sanaag region

# TOWARDS ERADICATION OF FGM/C ACTIVITIES

## *of Sanag, Tog-dher and Sahil Regions*

Over the years Candlelight has been playing a leading and active role in the campaign of the female genital mutilation (FGM/C) in Somaliland. Different approaches has been employed to increase the understanding of the communities regarding the issue and acceleration of its abandonment. The following have been the main methods used:

- Health (risk) approach
- Legal approach
- Religious approach,
- Human rights approach,
- An integrated development approach of mainstreaming FGM/C issue into programmes.

Some of the key activities that Candlelight carried out through these approaches include; awareness campaigns, TV debates with professional, religious and traditional leaders, sensitization training for community education committees (CECs), teachers, parents, and youth. It is worth noting, that these efforts have resulted in a significant improvement in attitudes of the communities towards the practice.

In addition, Candlelight created a networking mechanism and established good working relations with line ministries, such as the Ministry of Labor & Social Affairs, Ministry of Endowment & Religious Affairs and Ministry of Health for the purpose of having a common understanding and united voice of campaigning for the total abolition of FGM/C, as well as advocating for the development of a National FGM Policy. On the other hand, a number of encouraging achievements have been made over the past decades. A good indication is that the different communities groups, particularly the youth have realized the negative complications of FGM/C, and therefore prefer marrying women/girls who had not undergone FGM/C operation. The subject has been a taboo, but it is now discussed/debated openly.



FGM/C sensitization training for religious leaders (left); TV debate on FGM/C complication



# FUNDING AGENCIES

We would like to extend especial thanks to the following organizations who have contributed to funding Candlelight operation in 2013 and before:

1	International Solidarity Foundation (ISF) of Finland
2	Oxfam Novib
3	CARE International
4	Save Children International (SCI)
5	Food Agriculture Organization (FAO)
6	Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC)
7	Development Fund, Norway (DF)
8	Kinder Not Hilfe (KNH), Germany
9	Finnish Church Aid (FCA), Finland
10	United State African Development Foundation (USADF)
11	DAI - (Partnership for Economic Growth)
12	Finnish Embassy
13	World Vision

## COMMUNITY CONTRIBUTIONS

Candlelight promotes community contribution for the sole purpose to create community ownership and sense of responsibility of the project output. Community mostly contribute manpower and other resources which are available in their respective settings. There are certain programmes and projects that community contributions are mandatory in particularly infrastructures which require regular maintenance; shallow wells, communal water catchments etc.

## NETWORKS & FORUMS

Candlelight has networking relations with likeminded international and local non-governmental organizations with similar objectives and government line ministries. Currently, it is an active member of NAGAAD women umbrella organization, Somaliland HIV/AIDS Network (SAHAN), Somaliland Pastoral Forum (SOLPAF), Resource Management Somali Network (RMSN), Network for FGM eradication in Somaliland (NAFIS), and Somali Education Promotion Group, a network bringing together 5 organization in Somaliland, Somalia/Puntland (SEPROG).

# SUMMARY PROJECTS INCOME AND EXPENSES REPORT As ended Year 2013

## Income & Expenditure Statement As ended of 31st December 2013

Notes	2013	2012
	USD	USD
Receipts	2,854,853	2,831,536
Expenditure	2,720,726	2,625,169
(Deficit)/surplus	134,127	206,367

### Statement of Reserves

	2013	2012
	USD	USD
Accumulated fund balance B/F	1,009,519	803,151
Surplus/(Deficit) for the year	134,127	206,367
Accumulated fund balance C/F	1,143,646	1,009,519

## Balance Sheet As at 31 December 2013

	<u>Notes</u>	2013 USD	2012 USD
<b>Non-current assets</b>			
Property, plant & equipment	1	758,361	783,763
<b>Current Assets</b>			
Accounts Receivables	[2]	102,948	29,951
Cash in hand	[2]	8,299	1,651
Cash at bank	[2]	290,748	277,066
Total current assets		401,995	308,668
<b>Total Assets</b>		<b>1,160,356</b>	<b>1,092,432</b>
<b>EQUITY AND LIABILITIES</b>			
<b>Capital and reserves</b>			
Revenue reserve		1,143,646	1,009,519
Total		1,143,646	1,009,519
<b>Current liabilities</b>			
Creditors & Accruals	[3]	16,710	82,913
<b>Total Equity &amp; Liabilities</b>		<b>1,160,356</b>	<b>1,092,432</b>

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