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AAS and its partners held a series of activities to mark the 16 Days of Activism in Somaliland

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#16DOA in Somaliland

ActionAid Somaliland (AAS) and its partners held a series of activities including consecutive consultation meetings with the different sectors of the community to mark the 16 Days of Activism. The group included - grassroot women coalitions, traditional and the religious leaders and civil society organisations. This year's national theme in Somaliland was Safe city is security for all, Let us end violence against women. The overall aim of these consultation

meetings was to outline the causes that trigger an increase in GBV and to draw recommendations to reduce and eliminate violence against women in Somaliland. The meetings galvanised action to end violence against women and girls in

Somaliland by identifying the major challenges that generated violence against women. The meetings also drew recommendations for better collaboration and cooperation among different actors to fight against violence against women.

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The meetings were organised for 4 consecutive days participated by representatives from different sectors.

The Grassroots women kicked off the meeting series. They discussed about the challenges that women face to fight against gender based violence and suggested solutions to end such violence. On the second day, the traditional elders and religious leaders discussed repercussions of taking GBV cases from the formal court system to resolve informally. They underlined mechanisms to reduce interventions on the court system. The third meeting was among the various NGOs working on women rights. They discussed the common challenges organisations face on lack of coordination and cooperation among NGOs. They pointed how they could work closely together and avoid duplication of programme and activities.

The final day of the meeting was attended and addressed by Shugri Hariir Ismail, Deputy Minister of Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs (MOLSA) and Sadia Abdi Allin, AAS Country Director. They thanked everybody who attended and participated in the consecutive consultation meetings and emphasized the need to apply all the suggested recommendations for safer city and fighting violence against women. "There should be collaboration and cooperation among the society, government and civil society organizations to

bring violence against women to an end", said Shugri Ismail. The meeting was concluded with a group meeting that collectively recommended comprehensive mechanisms for better collaboration and cooperating to reduce violence against women in Somaliland.

The 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence is an international campaign that starts on 25 November, International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women and ends on 10 December, Human Rights Day. The campaign hopes to raise awareness about gender-based violence as a human rights issue at the local, national, regional and international level.



ActionAid Somaliland launched its website and social network sites on August 2014. We expect these communication vehicles will stand effective in delivering messages on our operations and activities.

We are confident that our online presence will further strengthen engagement with our beneficiaries, stakeholders and supporters.

Visit/contact us at

Phone: +252 2 518300, 523662
Email: admin.somaliland@actionaid.org
Web: www.actionaid.org/somaliland

Facebook: [fb.com/ActionAidSomaliland](https://www.facebook.com/ActionAidSomaliland)
YouTube: [youtube.com/ActionAidSomaliland](https://www.youtube.com/ActionAidSomaliland)
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From CD's Desk

2014, what a fantastic year it has been for ActionAid Somaliland. I feel happy to highlight some of our achievements.

We are beginning to see the difference our work is making to the lives of the people we work with. This year alone, 2,250 small-holder farmers have benefitted from over 4,500 tractor hours and 1,815 farmers were trained on sustainable farming techniques. This means more food and better income for thousands. Our mission to provide quality public education has grown even stronger. We have supported construction of 10 new classrooms. The rooms are light and spacious and will enable a further 330 children to get quality education.

Thanks to the dedication, commitment and passion of AAS family, partners, communities and donors; we are reaching our milestone to cover our four key areas of work - women's rights; building resilience of poor and vulnerable people; supporting small-holder farmers and ensuring quality primary education.

We look forward to 2015 to be a year of continued dedication to work with the communities and strive to achieve our strategic objectives and promises.



Farming Techniques Training

As a part of Italian Cooperation (DGCS) funded project, ActionAid Somaliland has begun Training on Farming Techniques and Water Harvesting in 21 villages across Marodijex and Gabiley Regions. The overall objective of the training is to build the capacity of small farm holders to create platforms to discuss matters affecting their livelihoods. The training focused on in-depth understanding of farming techniques with special emphasis on dry and irrigated farming, mono/mixed cropping, water harvesting, soil conservation, seed selection, pests/pesticides, rain-water harvesting, cooperative networking and marketing skills.

The training began on December 17, 2014 and it was successfully completed in all 21 villages in January 28, 2015. The total 1,815 farmers directly benefitted from the training that was designed to improve and enhance the farming techniques. The communities were also distributed essential agricultural tools and equipment.



Business and Credit Management Trainings

AAS conducted business and credit management trainings and workshops to women coalitions in 15 villages in LRP2 and LRP3 in 2014. Women coalition is the network of women in the village collectively working and cooperating on business and community work. The workshops were held to build up women

coalitions' capacity and enhance women's entrepreneurial skill.

ActionAid trained 420 participants while there were 210 revolving fund beneficiaries. The beneficiaries were delivered around USD 54,000 for the revolving fund. Most of the women used the fund for livestock trade. They buy cattle from the villages and sell it in bigger towns.

All the communities were very excited and welcoming to the tangible support. AAS anticipates the money would create a positive attitude for the women and progress in business. The trainings were held in Caada, Horohaadlay, Biyomacaan, Abaarso, Alaybaday, Boodhlay, WaalidXoor, Gogaysa, Taysa, Lafta, Dhalaada, Gogolwanaag, Boqorka, Darasalaam and Ceelginiiseed.

Web Designing training for partners

With an objective to enhance the communication capacity of Local Partners, AAIS conducted a 12-day Web Designing Course and Wordpress Training on mid-November 2014. The participants from SOHA, SOWDA, BVO and WAAPO attended the training, whereas online session was organised for SCDO. AAIS' technical assistance has helped local partners to design and deploy their respective website. The partners are confident that their website shall promote and exchange information and ideas by showcasing their activities and initiatives. They also underline that the website should promote the transparency of their humanitarian development activities.

Family Farming for Environment

The Ministry of Agriculture of Somaliland in collaboration with its development partners organized an event to mark the World Food Day on October 16, 2015 in Tog-Wajaale.

Sadia Abdi, Country Director, was among the delegates who addressed the event.

Sadia underlined the importance of family farming and strengthening their skills. She highlighted that the sustainable productivity was the basis for food security. She said, "Farming is critically important to meet our family's nutrition needs. Continual family farming can help us preserve traditional food products and safeguard environment".

Going Hi-Tech

ActionAid Somaliland regularly collects data on its programme for monitoring, evaluation, research and study. Since November 2014 AAS adopted mobile data collection solutions replacing traditional paper forms. AAS conducted survey on Monitoring Performance Survey across 30 villages in 3 LRPs. The survey covered 525 respondents. AAS is gearing up to replicate the experience on yet another survey which is due on early February.

Wells and Dams Constructed

As a part of 'Improvement of food security for the poorest rural communities in the west of Maroodijex Region' project, ActionAid constructed 20 shallow wells 4 sand dams in nine villages in LRP3 in October-December 2014. The structures will increase the water availability and improve the food security in these villages.



Infrastructure extension for education development

ActionAid Somaliland constructed 8 class rooms and 2-twin latrines in the schools in LRP2 and LRP3 in the last quarter of 2014. The new classrooms will provide quality education service and literacy classes for the children. As there were inadequate classrooms, many school-age children in those villages did not attend school, while others did not complete their education or receive quality education. To provide quality education and better schooling environment, ActionAid assisted four schools to extend their infrastructure with 8 classrooms with furniture and 2 twin latrines. The construction includes 2 classrooms in Oroma , 2 classrooms in Walid-Xoor, 2 classrooms in Udaan, and 2 classrooms and 2 twin latrines in Ceel-Ginised.

The new infrastructure aims to benefit 240 children with access to better education and increased enrolment and retention of girls in schools. It is expected that 40% of the students will be girls.

Sponsorship in Numbers

Here is a glimpse of the AAS Sponsorship Department achievements in 2014

- 4,408 child links generating money for Somaliland
- 701 new supporters recruited in 2014
- 8,742+ child messages/reports mailed to supporters in Brazil, UK and Italy.
- 30 case-stories on programme were collected and published
- 8742+ reports designed and printed locally
- 104 Community Resource Persons (CRP) worked in 30 villages to support the team
- 104 CRP's trained twice in the year and awarded best performing village CRP in each LRP

