

## Africa Led Movement to End FGM/C – ALM Project

### Overview



The Foreign, Commonwealth, and Development Office (FCDO) of the United Kingdom envisions a world free of Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting (FGM/C) by 2030, in accordance with the Sustainable Development Goals. A programme titled 'Support to the Africa-led Movement (ALM) to end FGM/C' (5) years project has been established to contribute to global efforts to achieve this vision. After a period of co-creation, programme implementation launched in November 2022. Somaliland has one of the greatest rates of female genital mutilation/cutting in the world, with 98% of women and girls undergoing cutting and 85% experiencing infibulation, the most extreme form. This prevalence rate is virtually universal throughout Somaliland, and it is highest in the east (Sool and Sanaag) compared to the west. Therefore, the project targeted the Sool and Sanaag regions, where AAIS is currently engaged in protection-related interventions.

Long-term objective of ActionAid is to free a generation of Somali females from the menace of FGM. This project aims by accelerating positive changes in social attitudes toward ending FGM/C, the program aims to contribute to a significant reduction in the practice of FGM/C in four focal countries in Africa, including Somaliland, by 2025, within a broader vision of a world where girls and women can exercise their power and rights. Change dynamics around FGM decision-making should be bottom-up, with girls and young women at the center of program design, implementation, and evaluation. The project's overarching and guiding principle is **"Do No Harm,"** which is supported by safeguarding and emotional well-being, both of which are interconnected and mutually reinforcing while ensuring that our approach is survivor-centered and proactive in its harm prevention.

### Project Outputs:

#### Output 1: Facilitate Monthly Community Dialogue on Ending FGM in 5 Districts.

##### Achievements:

1. Reached 1720 people, 50% of them were women who publicly talked ending FGM/C announced abandonment, and local community health professionals and religious scholars actively participated in FGM awareness.
2. GBV referral pathway training for 25 Sool and Sanaag participants from Ministries of Social Affairs, Justice, regional Governor & Mayors, Community Heads, and Women Coalition Safe Spaces learnt GBV referral pathways and FGM survival support.
3. 15 girls and 15 boys attend monthly school youth meetings in 5 schools to learn about FGM/GBV harm, advocacy, awareness, public speaking, and leadership.

#### Output 4: Strategic Use of Media and Campaigns

##### Achievements:

1. AAIS delivered radio and television dialogue broadcasts via local radio and television. A live Anti-FGM panel debate was aired live and was viewed by over 800,000 viewers as part of the project efforts to enhance FGM awareness raising and community outreach.

**YouTube link :** [\(4063\) Dood Furan oo lagu falanqeeyey Saameynta caafimaad iyo Bulsho ee gudniinka Hablaha - YouTube](#)



## Output 5: Global Advocacy (International Day of Zero Tolerance for FGM)

### Achievements:

1. In conjunction with International Day of Zero Tolerance for Female Genital Mutilation, ActionAid and the Ministry of Employment, Social Affairs, and Family successfully organised a National Conference on FGM/C on February 6, 2023. This event brought together Somaliland government, civil society, religious leaders, school youth forums, women groups, and the community. The conference aimed to foster local-to-national dialogue and allow women and girls to discuss FGM's negative effects.



2. ActionAid led a dialogue session with the FGM/C Policy Technical Committee and MESAF committee to discuss the ramifications of FGM/C and gain support for the Anti-FGM/C policy to be included in the cabinet agenda meeting.



3. Supported International Event Days



### Case Study:

**Interviewee's Story in Their Own Words:**  
How has our knowledge and advocacy changed their understanding of FGM/practices? Has it affected your belief and attitude towards FGM?

#### Interviewee Shabelee Mohamed, 39 years

My first wife circumcised my oldest daughter when she was nine, withdrawing them from school and consulting with her senior female relatives. My wife does not tell me about her plans, the cutter comes to my house early in the morning to cut my oldest daughter, and I was asleep when I heard her screams and flashbacks. Her mother was holding her down while the cutter was between her legs butchering her. My first wife was circumcised like her sisters, mother, and every other female relative in the neighborhood when I married her at seventeen and she was nineteen. We were both uneducated and had no schooling. My second wife, an educated woman with four girls and two sons, opposes circumcising our daughters and tries to persuade my first wife to do so. My oldest daughter is studying makeup artistry at Burao Vocational Training Centre to become a henna and beauty artist. I encourage all four of my daughters to follow their goals. I was invited to an FGM/C community dialogue in Fadhi-Gaab district under the ALM-TGG initiative and learned more about FGM/C's negative consequences on women's health. After the meeting, I met my grown daughters and asked for forgiveness and told them about FGM/C. I committed to ending it in our family and told them to spread awareness to build a better future for our community so they can have good health, be free from FGM/C and harmful practices, and go to school and work.