

# ACTIONAID INTERNATIONAL SOMALIA/SOMALILAND

This quarterly newsletter provides highlights of ActionAid's engagement activities in Somalia and Somaliland between April and June 2023. ActionAid is partnering with over 200 communities to respond to the worst effects of drought and conflict that has displaced millions of Somalis. ActionAid's programmes over the three months from April—June have provided the much needed life saving interventions and promoted medium to long term resilience. ActionAid will continue to partner with CSOs, communities, and their organizations to support and promote resilience. Of note, ActionAid has been partnering with young people's organizations, networks, and movements to lead on co-creation of climate change solutions.

## BUILDING COMMUNITY RESILIENCE

Quarterly Highlights : April —June 2023





## KEY CONTEXTUAL HIGHLIGHTS

- ♣ OCHA reported that Somalia and the Ethiopian highlands remain in drought despite seasonal rains that caused flash flooding. In April, Secretary-General António Guterres visited Somalia as part of his annual Ramadan tour of Muslim nations. He asked the world community to increase humanitarian relief for six million people in need.
- ♣ On 18 May 2023, Somaliland celebrated its 32nd Independence Day.
- ♣ The UN, Italy, Qatar, the UK, and the US, along with Ethiopia, Kenya, and Somalia, held a high-level fundraising conference in New York for the Horn of Africa humanitarian response.
- ♣ On 26th June, Somaliland commemorated its 63rd anniversary of independence which marked the end of the British protectorate.
- ♣ The Somaliland National Electoral Commission has scheduled the Political Parties and Associations election on December 28, 2023, and the Presidential election for November 13, 2024.
- ♣ Somaliland President Muse Bihi welcomed Catriona Laing to improve UN-Somaliland relations and cooperations.
- ♣ In June, Somalia's top security forces were reshuffled to support the federal government's second phase of the operation. The president, Mohamud, sacked General Odowaa Yusuf Rageh, who directed the counterinsurgency and supported clan militias, to speed up the second phase, which has stalled due to political infighting in numerous states.
- ♣ Prices: Food and non-food prices rose 10%–26% in most states. Galmudug, Somaliland, and Jubaland have stable food and non-food prices. Eid-al Adha demand raised prices in Mogadishu and Hirshabelle by 1-6 %. In Hirshabelle, imported commodity prices rose to some extent.

## OUR WAYS OF WORKING

The Human Rights Approach (HRBA) will continue to serve as our guide, emphasizing the pillars of empowerment, solidarity, campaigning, and promoting alternatives. We will keep connecting building and strengthening people's agency across Somalia and Somaliland to harness individual and collective power, with a particular emphasis on women's rights organizations and movements at all levels. We will continue to deepen our partnerships with grassroots women and youth organizations and movements to promote organic organizing and advocacy.

## STRATEGIC APPROACH

- Our strategy has three pillars: rights, redistribution, and resilience. We believe that shifting and redistributing power and resources, bolstering the resilience of communities and movements, and fulfilling the rights of those living in poverty and exclusion in Somalia and Somaliland are essential for achieving social justice, gender equality, and the eradication of poverty.

Our community based approach centres on the conviction that shifting gender relations and the way girls and women are valued is crucial for overcoming societal norms and customs that support detrimental practices such as GBV and FGM. Collective abandonment necessitates local ownership and leadership, the mobilization of social change, and the spread of larger change.

## HUMANITARIAN SITUATION



During this quarter, Somalis continue to endure climatic events, armed conflict, flash and riverine floods, and other challenges. FAO/Somalia Water and Land Information Management (SWALIM) reported moderate to severe rainfall in Somalia, causing flash and riverine floods. As of June, the floods affected 468,000 people, 247,000 of

whom were displaced. Displaced and vulnerable women and girls suffer the most countrywide. According to the Somalia 2023 Humanitarian Needs Overview (HNO), 8.25 million people, or more than half of the estimated population, need immediate humanitarian and protection assistance. Due to displacement and lack of water and health facilities, displaced women and girls face many hazards. Baledweyne flooding has generated concerns about waterborne diseases including diarrhoea and gender-based violence (GBV). Additional funding is needed to meet Laas Canood rising humanitarian needs. Somalia and Somaliland's humanitarian crisis is projected to worsen. For five years, the rains have been unpredictable, and climate change anticipates causing more people to flee their houses. ActionAid Somalia and Somaliland will increase resource mobilisation after its 10-year Child Sponsorship project ended in 2022 to address growing need and increase emergency response and long-term resilience.

## ACTIONAID'S RESPONSE APPROACH AND MODALITIES

**Women-Led Community-Based Protection & Girls' Education:** Our approach entails providing cash grants to families in order to keep girls in school or for women to start businesses; creating women's safe spaces; training and capacity building of women to claim their rights; awareness raising and community dialogues on FGM and other forms of gender-based violence; referral pathways, the formation of women's coalitions and business cooperatives; psychosocial support; and dignity kits distribution.

**Humanitarian Response:** If markets are not functional or accessible, our women-led solutions include multi-purpose cash, in-kind food supplies, and non-food items.

**Resilience:** Installation of greenhouses and solar systems, agricultural inputs, the restoration and development of water sources, and livelihood support such as income diversification alternatives, cash subsidies, and agroecology training to help people adapt to the effects of climate change.

## LAASCANOOD SITUATIONAL UPDATE

The security situation in Laas Caanood remains fragile and the international community keeps pushing for a diplomatic conclusion to the conflict. On June 8, 2023, the Government of Somaliland requested more UN Security Council cooperation and understanding amid rising unrest in Laas Caanood. Somaliland suspects that the council's appeal for peace is being undermined by an incorrect assessment of the situation. Since February 6, Somaliland and Dhulbahante clan militia have clashed in Las Anod, in the disputed Sool area. The clash caused the death of 299, injured 1,913, and displaced nearly 200,000 people. The Somalia Humanitarian Coordinator has authorized US\$2 million from the Somalia Humanitarian Fund for life-saving efforts in health, shelter and water, sanitation, and hygiene. There is an impediment to delivering assistance to displaced and vulnerable individuals from the Somaliland side, whereas entry is easier from the Puntland side. As a result, ActionAid has formally registered in Puntland to seek more funding to complement existing response efforts and carry out life-saving operations in partnership with designated Puntland response taskforce.

## RESPONSE NEEDS



Food



Water



Shelter



Dignity



Cash



Non Food

## ACTIONAID'S RESPONSE PLAN—SCALE UP



**Meeting immediate needs** by supporting displaced people with emergency cash to buy water and other basic needs. We plan to provide cash grants reaching approximately **3000 people**.



**Shelter and other essential items:** by providing plastic sheets, blankets, sleeping mats, kitchen sets, mosquito nets, solar lamps and jerry cans for **500 families** who are taking shelter in public building or host communities.



**Ensuring the needs of women and girls are met:** by providing **dignity kits for 1000 women and girls**, including soap and sanitary pads. During distributions, we will also share information and support on how to report gender-based violence cases and to access other services, including psychosocial support, health care facilities, legal or alternative shelter. A hotline will be provided for women to report any issues they are facing and access advise

## ACTIONAID INTERVENTION THUS FAR



Reached HHs : **1,121 (6,726 Individuals)**



Total Cash Transfer : **110,100 USD**



Water Trucking : **204,525 Liters (1022.625 Barrels)**



Donors : **DANIDA, FCDO & IHART**

## ACTIONAID RESPONSE TO BELEDWEYNE FLOODING



ActionAid responded to an urgent appeal to intervene and provide lifesaving interventions for flood affected communities in Beledweyne. This is after heavy rains caused the river to break its banks in Beledweyne on 8th May 2023 and subsequent flooding which submerged the surrounding town. The flooding caused widespread destruction of farms, public infrastructure, and other livelihood assets. An estimated 201,438 individuals were displaced by flooding, the majority in CeelJaale, and Burjada Ceynta. More than 80 percent of the town is in low-lying areas. The floods worst-affected villages included Kooshin, Haawotaako, and Howlwadaag. The floods displaced mainly children, women, elderly and people with disabilities. ActionAid International-Somalia was among the first humanitarian organizations to respond to the floods with a focus on lifesaving actions primarily water trucking, one-off cash support, NFI kit distribution and hygiene kits which targeted the most vulnerable communities affected by the floods. ActionAid successfully reached a total of 46,200 (31,830 women, 14,370 men) including boys and girls. Humanitarian needs in Beledweyne and overall Hirshabelle state remain very dire and humanitarian response scale up is needed. Most of the people displaced by floods returned to the town amid limited assistance and funding for humanitarian needs on the ground. To build back better, post flood support for recovery is needed with more focus on rehabilitation of water infrastructure, construction of latrines, food and cash assistance, resilience programming to support long term livelihoods of affected communities as well as protection.

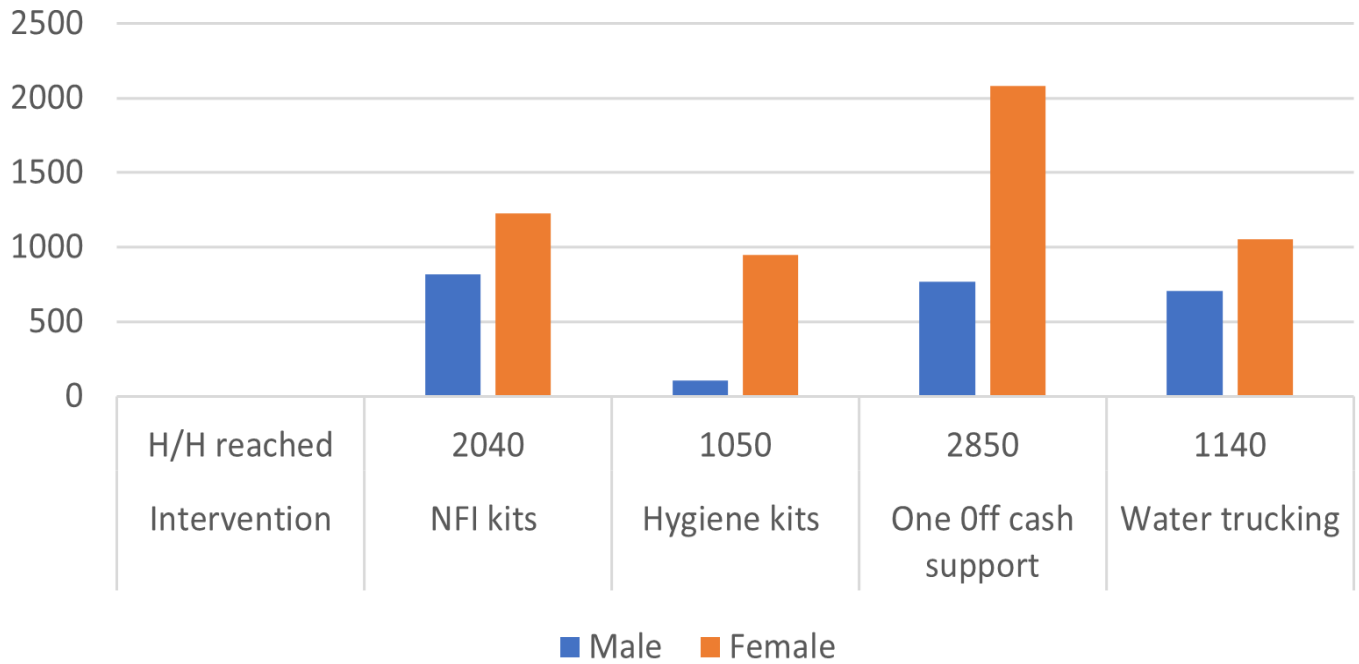


The global Start Fund was first established in 2014. It enables implementing partners to respond timely to crisis. The Start Fund focuses on three categories of humanitarian needs: underfunded small to medium-scale crises, impending crisis forecasts, and spikes in chronic humanitarian crises. The funding is disbursed within 72 hours of a crisis alert being issued. This makes the Start Fund one of the quickest financing mechanisms for humanitarian aid in the world.



**BELEDWEYNE RESPONSE ANALYSIS**

Ditribution of Beledweyne Flood Response Beneficiaries by H/H & Sex



**ACTIONAID  
BELEDWEYNE  
FLOOD  
RESPONSE  
ACTIVITIES**




## HUMANITARIAN AND EMERGENCY RESPONSE FOR 2023


### Target Beneficiaries—**PLANNED**


 Target Beneficiaries **35,000** HHs  
(**210,000** Individuals)




### Target Beneficiaries— **ACTUAL** (June 2023)

 **30,700** Households Reached


 **\$12,717** Cash Transferred


 **2,2279 Metric Ton** In-Kind Distribution


 **5118 Barrel (1,023,600 Liters)** Water Trucking


## RESILIENCE AND LIVELIHOOD FOR 2023


### Target Activities—**PLANNED**


 **120,000** linear meters of soil bunds

 **1500** of gabion wire

 **3** Sand Dams Construction


 **500Kg** of Fodder


 **6000** Tractor Hours


 **5** New Berkads Construction





### Target Activities— **ACTUAL** (June 2023)


 **24,040** linear meters of soil bunds

 **700** of gabion wire

 **1** Sand Dam

 **500Kg** of Fodder

 **1,104** Tractor Hours

 **1** New Berkads (Constructed)

## PROTECTION & WOMEN'S RIGHT FOR 2023

### Target Activities—**PLANNED**


 **5000** Dignity Kit Distribution





### Target Activities— **ACTUAL** ( June 2023)


 **1230** Dignity Kit Distribution


## ACTIONAID ESTABLISHED

 **26** Women Safe Space (Spaces for Gender Based Violence referrals, awareness raising and psychosocial)

 **85** Women Coalitions (Provide Gender Based Violence awareness raising to people)

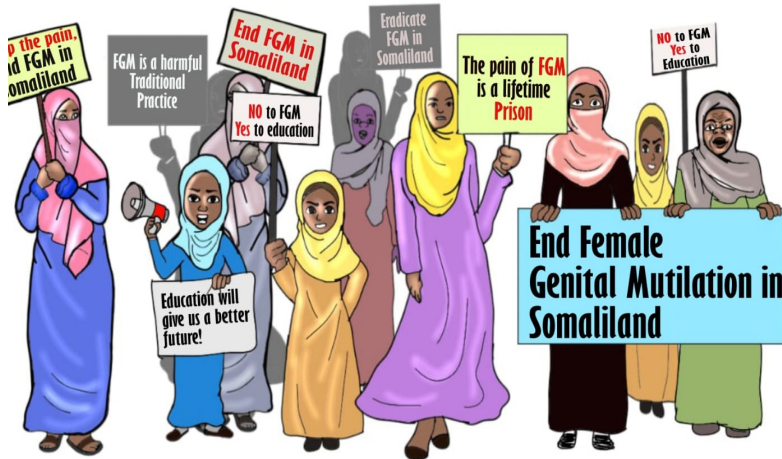
 **930** Revolving Fund

 **930** Self Help Group (Informal women groups who without regular means of income or livelihood helping & supporting each other)

 **20** Women Cooperatives

## Case Study

### Why intergenerational dialogue has a chance to end FGM/C in Somaliland



Above: Advocacy messaging on campaign to end FGM/C in Somaliland

In Somaliland, Female Genital Mutilation or Cutting is a common initiation practise. In Somalia, its prevalence rate is 98%. While this is celebrated as a cultural tradition handed down through generations in Somaliland, it has far-reaching effects on the rights of women and girls as well as their sexual reproductive and health rights (SRHR). The practise has found receptive allies within cultural and religious circles for many years. In addition to the cultural preservation narrative, there is no consensus on why the practise should be maintained. In a society where gender-based violence is pervasive and women's rights are not prioritised, a group of women and girls working with ActionAid on the FCDO-funded Africa-Led Movement of Female Genital Mutilation Project are challenging this narrative and raising awareness among women, girls, and cultural leaders. Women and girls participating in the ALM project in Erigavo are organising at the community level and advocating for the abolition of FGM/C armed with knowledge of the HRBA gained through ActionAid training. ActionAid trained community champions who spearhead community-level dialogues. In addition, school youth organisations, including clubs for girls, have been established to provide a space for girls to discuss and share skills and strategies for engaging their families in

community dialogues. Boys play a crucial role in engaging their classmates and contributing to "unlearning" and learning in the school clubs. This has had a significant impact on family attitudes towards FGM/C and its effects on girls' education, women's and girls' bodily integrity, and SRHR. The youth clubs convene monthly to discuss their engagements, including intergenerational dialogues on FGM/C and girls' education, as well as their progress and challenges. Since the beginning of the initiative, there has been a marked shift in the perspective of cultural leaders regarding the end of FGM/C advocacy. Before the initiative, organising dialogues on ending FGM/C in Erigavo was nearly impossible. Despite some resistance from cultural leaders, the open community dialogues have allowed for the development of shared objectives and consensus regarding the abolition of FGM/C. ActionAid will continue to build the capacity of women's coalitions and initiatives at the community level in areas where specific projects are being implemented.

## Thanks to our major donors for supporting ActionAid's Multisectoral Humanitarian Response

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