



**CANDLELIGHT  
FOR ENVIRONMENT,  
EDUCATION AND HEALTH  
IMPACT REPORT 2023**

---

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

Introduction.....	03
Thematic impact report .....	04
Sustainable Livelihood Development.....	05
Formal Education.....	06
Introducing Practical Environmental Education.....	07
Technical Vocational Training.....	08
Health and Nutrition.....	09
Nutrition Sensitive Interventions.....	10
Gender and Protection.....	11
Child Protection.....	12
Inclusion .....	12
Tripple nexus - Peace Building.....	13
Humanitarian Response.....	14
Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability and Learning.....	15
Learning and knowledge management.....	16
Finance.....	16
Donors and Partners: 2023.....	16
Networks and Affiliations.....	16
Our Affiliations.....	16
Our Partners.....	17



## MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

I am proud to share that Candlelight's unwavering dedication and commitment have significantly improved the circumstances for Somaliland's most vulnerable and marginalised communities. This achievement is a testament to our shared mission and the impact we can reach together. Candlelight stands out in its approach to tackling environmental issues. We are not just reacting to climate change or natural disasters but also taking proactive steps to prevent them. Our unique strategy has yielded impressive results, and we are confident that we can continue strengthening community resilience together.

In the face of ever-evolving challenges, Candlelight remains committed to its core values and mission statement. We have developed strategic objectives that achieve measurable and tangible results while allowing us to adapt to the needs of our recipients and donors. This adaptability is a testament to our resilience and commitment to staying well-informed and responsive. Candlelight has implemented numerous programs and projects this year to improve our operations, overcome existing human suffering, and reach the most vulnerable people in all six regions of Somaliland. Our thematic support areas remain pivotal, and we continue to focus on natural resource management, environmental conservation, livelihoods, WASH, nutrition, education, and humanitarian assistance.

I thank everyone for their continued efforts towards inclusive programming and social justice. I also take this opportunity to thank all our donors and partners who have generously supported our work with invaluable technical and financial assistance. These contributions have helped improve the lives of Somaliland's most marginalised, vulnerable, unheard, and isolated people. Our collaborations have strengthened social, economic, and political platforms that symbolise hope for future generations.

I encourage all Candlelight staff to remain committed to our vision, mission, and core values. Your dedication and unwavering commitment to serving the varied needs of the most underprivileged are genuinely inspiring. Together, we can continue positively impacting the lives of those who need us.

**Abdirizaq Bashir Libah**  
Executive Director

# CANDLELIGHT FOR ENVIRONMENT, EDUCATION AND HEALTH



## Mission

Peaceful, Environmentally Conscious,  
and Productive Society.



## Vision

Building partnerships to improve the quality of  
community lives through environmental conser-  
vation and fair access to quality education,  
health, and humanitarian services.



## Values

Integrity, Equity and Fairness, Excellency, Collabo-  
ration and Team Spirit, Community Norms, and  
Culture Respect.

## WHERE WE STARTED:

The civil war in Somalia drove Candlelight's emergence, leaving behind extensive loss, destruction, and depleted land resources and livelihoods. The formation of Candlelight strengthened the provision and mobilisation of crucial humanitarian assistance and livelihood support when only a handful of actors were available on the ground.

## WHERE WE ARE NOW:

Candlelight has strategic operations that respond to a wide range of needs in hard-to-reach and vulnerable communities in Somaliland, Somalia, and Ethiopia. Candlelight is now one of Somalia's most respected local NGOs and has extensive partnerships with national and international organisations, donors, institutions, and governments. Our primary interventions focus on humanitarian response, recovery, and resilience-building programs across our

## WHERE WE ARE GOING:

Candlelight envisions strengthening its programs further by incorporating evidence-based, innovative, and technology-driven techniques to increase sustainability, bandwidth, and impact. The organisation will continue to expand its partnerships and cross-border collaborations to holistically deal with pressing issues of climate change, environmental degradation, livelihood support, and gender empowerment. New methods will be sought to increase demand-driven and diversified interventions to suit changing needs. Nontraditional alliances will be honoured to seek ways to give attention to decolonisation and inspire indigenous practices that will strengthen inclusivity.



## INTRODUCTION

Somaliland 2023: Though grappling with economic difficulties such as high unemployment rates, inflation, and limited access to financial services, Somaliland is poised for growth and development. Local and international organisations continue to strengthen their collaborations and efforts to improve the situation of vulnerable communities.

The country has seen improvements in infrastructure, such as the construction of roads and the expansion of access to electricity and clean water. Economic development initiatives also showed improvement, with key sectors like agriculture and energy gaining further recognition. Joint initiatives have been strengthened to improve access to quality services and enhance educational opportunities. These achievements reflect Somaliland's resilience and determination to overcome compounding obstacles and strive towards building a better future for its people.

Candlelight's thematic areas of intervention address the significant gaps that suppress societal peace, development, sustainability and environmental consciousness—serving as a means to anchor cohesion and support for local communities to benefit from and develop relationships with national and international provision providers, local authorities and general service providers to foster community engagement and empower residents to take ownership of their environments and livelihoods.





## THEMATIC IMPACTS

### ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION AND SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOODS ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION

Somaliland is vulnerable to and highly impacted by climate change. The environmental stresses now to this region, especially recurrent droughts, continue to intensify, putting communities and livelihoods at risk. Livelihoods across the country depend on the availability of livestock and agriculture. Consequently, the need for strengthened, collaborative, evidence-based environmental interventions conducive to this region is paramount and urgent. Candlelight is dedicated to environmental programs that strengthen sustainable futures and lead social and economic improvements for vulnerable communities.

The following categorical activities were conducted this year to support climate-afflicted communities and reach local and global sustainable environmental goals: strengthening community capacities for disaster risk reduction, improved soil and water conservation management, rehabilitation of farm and pasture lands, and replanting of fodder and multi-purpose value plant species. As a result, over 30 villages have developed strengthened resilience and adaptation to climate change due to the interventions above, hence 16,100 households are now actively and collectively working towards combating climate degradation.







## Sustainable Livelihood Development

In 2023, Candlelight's livelihood development projects focused on enhancing economic opportunities in agricultural development (crop and animal husbandry), and entrepreneurship to strengthen and develop income streams for 4,650 households. These efforts contributed to empowering target communities and households; providing them with climate smart and sustainable means of income generation. Government agencies, NGOs, and international organisations likely collaborated to implement programs addressing various sectors, including agriculture, livestock, fisheries, and small-scale industries.



## FORMAL EDUCATION AND VOCATIONAL SKILLS DEVELOPMENT

In 2023, Candlelight's livelihood development projects focused on enhancing economic opportunities in agricultural development (crop and animal husbandry), and entrepreneurship to strengthen and develop income streams for 4,650 households. These efforts contributed to empowering target communities and households; providing them with climate smart and sustainable means of income generation. Government agencies, NGOs, and international organisations likely collaborated to implement programs addressing various sectors, including agriculture, livestock, fisheries, and small-scale industries.







## Introducing Practical Environmental Education to Somaliland

Practical environmental education in Somalia is crucial for fostering sustainable practices, conserving natural resources, and mitigating environmental degradation. Hands-on learning can empower communities to address desertification, water scarcity, and biodiversity loss, promoting stewardship and resilience amidst ecological challenges.

In the academic year of 2022 to 2023, Candlelight introduced the world-renowned Eco School Program to Somaliland. The international environmental school program was redesigned to suit the local environmental context to optimise impact. Relatedly, a similar environmental program, 'Blue Schools,' was running simultaneously but on a larger scale across the region of Marodi Jeh. Both projects strove to strengthen indigenous methods and locally evidence-based techniques to foster practical environmental education while empowering children to make positive decisions and become change agents to contribute to an environmentally sustainable society. Jointly, these programs empowered 5,600 children and teachers across 14 public primary and secondary schools within the region of Maroodi Jeh.





## Technical Vocational Training

Candlelight's technical and vocational institutions aim to create positive change, promote independence, and empower students by promoting learning opportunities and providing indispensable education and work-placement/ Internship for employment. This year, Candlelight TVET centres in Hargeisa, Burao, and Erigavo offered market-demanded courses such as beautification, electrical installation, bakery and cooking, construction, design and tailoring among others. These courses targeted local employment opportunities based on current market needs and saw a male and female graduation.

Altogether, 566 male and female youth of which at least 70% were female, graduated from our technical and vocational schools located in Hargeisa, Burao and Erigavo male and female youth, mainly between the ages of 18 and 30 years graduated from our technical and vocational schools in Hargeisa, Burao and Erigavo.







# HEALTH AND NUTRITION



## HEALTH AND NUTRITION

In line with the Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) 2023 , Strategic Priorities for Somalia is to target 2.8 million children under the age of five and Pregnant and Lactating Women (PLW) with life-saving nutrition interventions such as treatment of severe acute malnutrition (SAM) and moderate acute malnutrition (MAM). As a result, this year, Candlelight and its partners strategically deployed mobile health and nutrition teams to serve the most vulnerable communities in the regions of Togdheer and Sool. Immediate health and nutrition support improved the lives of six children under the age of five, pregnant and lactating women and other vulnerable groups. This project is ongoing and expected to serve at least 21,000 individuals with improved access to health and nutrition services by September 2024.

### Nutrition Sensitive Interventions

To help communities maximise the benefits of nutrition and diets, Candlelight adopted a nutrition-sensitive approach to address underlying causes of malnutrition. This area of intervention has so far empowered over 33,450 individuals in the most deprived communities. to strengthen their local systems to prevent malnutrition before it occurs. is was achieved by training community health volunteers to act as champions of nutrition sensitisation and awareness, and supporting farmers with nutritious seeds.



## GENDER AND PROTECTION

Candlelight places great emphasis on contributing to reinforcing rights-based social change and inclusive policy-making in Somaliland to end practices of female genital mutilation and cutting (FGM/C) and sexual gender-based violence (SGBV). To secure these efforts, Candlelight supported communities, CSOs, and other key stakeholders in working harmoniously to strengthen collaborative capacities to influence behaviour change, enhance support services, and lobby and advocate for policies protecting women, children, and other vulnerable groups.

This year, Candlelight collaborated with the Ministry of Employment, Social Affairs and Family (MESAF) in drafting and moving forward with Somaliland's sexual offence bill and the Anti-FGM/C policy. In addition, 22,267 (add KnH figures) women, men, young girls and boys received awareness of human rights and developed knowledge of how to access services. Platforms were created to help shape public discourse on sensitive issues that affect women and girls. These platforms also served to bring duty bearers and right holders face-to-face to address the problems of accountability, participation, equality, among others. These endeavours have positively increased community sensitivity, knowledge, and engagement in working together to combat harmful practices, e.g. FGM/C and SGBV. As a result, the locations targeted under this intervention saw a decline in SGBV and FGM/C incidents. A positive shift in attitudes has led to growing numbers of people from all genders, ages, and social backgrounds joining in solidarity to end harmful customs.





## Child Protection

Candlelight continues to empower children to amplify their voices. We are empowering children with knowledge of their rights and practical skills to protect themselves and one another. In 2023, Candlelight developed partnerships with at least 4 schools in Burco district, establishing school-based child rights peer groups for Child Rights awareness raising; reaching out to at least 1,400 boys and girls in the target schools. The organisation has supported to organise platforms for children to discuss child protection issues and advocate for their needs, giving them a platform to speak on issues affecting them. In the wider communities, the organisation has supported the formation and training of Child Rights committees at district (Burco) and village level.

## Inclusion

Candlelight ensures the integration of gender equality and social inclusion in all its interventions and program design. It further endeavours to strengthen its staff capacity to effectively implement activities that meet these standards while equipped with the necessary tools and knowledge.







## TRIPPLE NEXUS - PEACE BUILDING

In 2023, the global peace index for Somalia was 3.04 index. Though Somalia's global peace index fluctuated substantially in recent years, it tended to decrease through the 2013 - 2023 period, ending at 3.04 index in 2023. Candlelight works in conflict-prone environments providing essential life-saving humanitarian and development assistance to the most vulnerable communities.

In efforts to reduce conflicts and strengthen community-based peace-building initiatives and processes, this year Candlelight supported the establishment and effective management of peace committees in 15 conflict prone communities and provided them with peace building grants to enable them effectively execute their mandate. As a result, the committees are now engaged with their local representatives at the government level and can work towards resolving conflicts of different types, including resource related conflicts.



## Humanitarian Response

In 2023, Somalia/Somaliland's humanitarian situation continued to deteriorate, with an estimated 8.25 million people, especially women, children under five and other vulnerable groups requiring humanitarian assistance. Severe drought, hunger, disease and conflicts have compounded, bringing Somalia to the brink of famine.

In response to increasing humanitarian needs, Candlelight strengthened its partnerships and capacity to support the most vulnerable groups with urgent life-saving assistance. This year a total of over 29,166 drought affected and vulnerable individuals were supported with improved access to water, access to emergency health and nutrition services, and conditional cash transfers (cash for work).





## MONITORING. EVALUATION, ACCOUNTABILITY AND LEARNING.

Monitoring and evaluation are an integral part of Candlelight's programming as we seek to extend innovative pathways that help us provide efficient, inclusive and high-quality services that can cater to the needs of increasingly vulnerable populations.

Candlelight promotes accountability and ensures that the five pillars of accountability to affected persons are upheld and promoted as widely as possible. Our commitment to accountability is reflected in our efforts to provide accessible and timely information that allows our target groups and stakeholders to make informed decisions and choices through transparency. Inclusion, participation and feedback are integral to establishing and providing practical, informed and sustainable programs that positively impact all vulnerable groups. Evidence-based approaches encourage vulnerable groups to engage in decision-making processes actively this supports the organization's future developments. Finally, this was only possible with Candlelight's determination to ensure its internal functions are committed to providing effective accountability to affected persons



Fadlan wixii talo-soo-jeedin, toosin ama cabasho  
ah ee aad qabto nagala soo xidhiidh nambarkan

 **2056** 

Saacadaha Shaqada  
8:00 Subaxnimo ilaa 2:00 Duhurnimo  
Axada ilaa Khamiista



## Learning and knowledge management

Candlelight regularly seeks ways to extend its learning capacity in order to generate solutions that effectively address evolving needs and continuously transform the organisation's capacity. The information gathered from our different MEAL processes is used to design more robust and inclusive programs. Candlelight ensures its knowledge and learning are distilled, shared, stored, and retrievable for internal and external use.

## Finance

Candlelight portfolio for 2023: USD 1,519,514

## Donors and Partners: 2023

Candlelight works with several donors and partners. It would like to thank all its donors and partners for their continued support in helping us achieve our vision.

CARE International, Concern Worldwide, Development Fund Norway, Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), Kindernothilfe (KNH), Oxfam Novib, Somalia Humanitarian Fund (SHF), The European Union, Welthungerhilfe (WHH), KBA, Save the Children Fund, HALO Trust, SOS Childrens Villages Somaliland, RainForest Trust, Code Africa and CCF.

## Networks and Affiliations

Candlelight is a member of several national and international multi-sectorial networks, clusters, working groups, and consortia. These partnerships provide platforms for knowledge generation and information sharing, bringing together expertise and experiences, collaborating on strengthening resource mobilisation and interventions and building critical mass for advocacy and policy influencing.

## Our Affiliations

National: NAGAAD Women Umbrella Organization, Network for FGM Eradication in Somaliland (NAFIS), Somalia NGO Consortium (SNC), Somaliland Association for Community-based Natural Resource Management Support Organization (SACSO), Somaliland HIV/AIDS, Somaliland Non-State Actors (SONSAF), and Somaliland Pastoral Forum (SOLPAF). International: Localization WS2/SNC localisation Working Group member, NEAR Network, The University of Bristol, and Code for Africa.



## Our Partners

Candlelight has worked with a range of partners from different parts of the world. Such collaborations have effectively allowed our interventions to reach increasingly vulnerable communities in line with our vision. Our partners range from local communities, government agencies, international organisations, and corporate entities that share our commitment to


## Our Contact Addresses


 Head Office: Hargeisa, Sub-office: Burao, Erigavo, Lasanod and Jigjiga Ethiopia.

Liaison Office: Nairobi, Kenya

 E-mail: [info@candlelightsom.org](mailto:info@candlelightsom.org),

 Website: [Candlelightsom.org](http://Candlelightsom.org)

 Phone: +252 63 4427848, +252 63 4426069, +2522 523146

 Postal Address: P.O.Box 15518, Nairobi, 00100 Kenya



**CANDLELIGHT FOR ENVIRONMENT,  
EDUCATION AND HEALTH**  
**IMPACT REPORT 2023**