



Annual Report 2016



Headquarter office: Hargeisa. Sub-offices: Sheikh| Burao| Erigavo
Liaison office: Nairobi, Kenya
E-mail: candasli@yahoo.com Website: www.candlelightsom.org
Phone: + 252 63 4427848 + 252 63 4426069
Postal address: P.O. Box 15518, Nairobi, 00100 Kenya

Contents

| | |
|---|----|
| 1 A letter from the chairman..... | 1 |
| 2 A word from the director..... | 2 |
| 3 About us..... | 3 |
| 4 Work diagram..... | 4 |
| 5 The evolution of candlelight..... | 5 |
| 6 Thematic areas..... | 6 |
| 7 Environment and livelihood projects..... | 7 |
| 7.1 Sustainable rangeland and forest management system..... | 7 |
| 7.2 Community resilience building to mitigate effects of climate change..... | 8 |
| 7.3 Strengthening livelihoods of communities using an innovative approach..... | 10 |
| 7.4 Increasing farming production and building socioeconomic of the communities.... | 11 |
| 7.5 Rebuilding confidence on land issues in somaliland..... | 12 |
| 7.6 Enhancing resilience of vulnerable returned idps and host communities..... | 13 |
| 8 Education and skills training..... | 14 |
| 8.1 Youth empowerment initiative through skills training..... | 14 |
| 8.2 Empowering girls and women through education..... | 15 |
| 8.3 Educating one, educating a generation..... | 16 |
| 9 Health and gender..... | 17 |
| 9.1 Integrating approach of reducing fgm/c in somaliland..... | 17 |
| 9.2 Educating community about the complication of fgm/c..... | 18 |
| 9.3 Social and economic empowerment of women through self help groups (SHG).... | 19 |
| 10. Emergency preparedness and response..... | 20 |
| 10.1 Livelihood support for drought effected households in sanag region..... | 20 |
| 10.2 Drought response and recovery interventions in south of hargeisa..... | 21 |
| 11.Candlelight statement of financial position..... | 22 |
| 12. Candlelight statement of financial position..... | 23 |

1. A letter from the Chairman

Last year, 2016, was another big year for Candlelight. The organization has been expanding its grant-making to better address communities' needs. This has been happening, at a time funds have been shrinking; at a time the non-profit sector in Somaliland has been experiencing hard times and major declining of humanitarian funding resources. At a time hundreds of thousands of Somaliland pastoral and agro pastoral communities have lost their livelihoods and hit with the most severe drought in the history of Somaliland. Yet, we are confident that Candlelight's activities will continue reaching out and have positively impact thousands of community members in all parts of the country who are in need of immediate support.

The programs of the organization have been devoted to respond to the most critical challenges of Somaliland communities by stressing resilience building vs, enhancing local productivity to increase food security, provision of quality formal and technical education for youth as well as literacy and numeracy for men/women, livelihood support grants by training entrepreneurs and investing in small business scales to boost local economic circulations, responding to humanitarian emergency situations, introducing climate change adaptation techniques, addressing environmental degradation, and standing against gender based violence.

I am very much sure that Candlelight will grow into new heights in future to continue responding to community challenges and work towards the realization of its mission.

Finally, I would like to give my sincere thanks to the members of the Board, their judgment and dedication for doing what is right for the organization is unparalleled. I would also appreciate the energy, commitment and enthusiasm of the Staff and their leadership, and lastly not the least our development partners for their various contributions for enabling us to reach our target beneficiaries.

Best regards

Ahmed Ibrahim Awale
Chairman Board of Directors



2. A word from the Director

It is my profound honor to present the 2016 annual report for Candlelight. This report is an overview of the significant milestones achieved by the organization in collaboration with other key stakeholders by responding to the immense social, economic and environmental consequences of climate change and deterioration of ecosystems that communities have been experiencing over the past decades. Somaliland is experiencing these effects which are being felt in the form of droughts, devastated landscapes and livelihoods. Given the precariousness of their livelihoods, among those most affected are women and girls, internally displaced persons and the pastoralists. The burden of securing shelter, food and water largely falls on them, including the constraints on their access to land and natural resources.

In 2016, Candlelight, with support from different actors, kept itself busy in addressing the environmental, humanitarian crises, obstacles to accessing quality education, lack of technical skills and other social issues that have health ramifications among the youth and women. It is thus important to note that the achievements were as a result of an effective team that used multi-dimensional approaches, which were tailored to the specific needs of the vulnerable communities. The focus was on catering for the immediate needs, while laying out firm and long term structural changes which are sustainable to promote independence and empower the individuals to have the capacity to generate their own income.

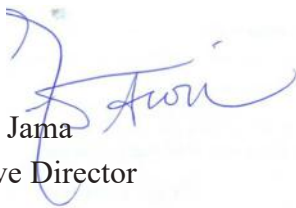
As the year ends, Candlelight reflects back on its interventions and outstanding impact that have been realized; improvement on community livelihoods, protection of the environment, promotion of girls' education, reduction of youth unemployment, contribution towards eradication of harmful practices of FGM/C and its stand against gender inequality in the country.

Candlelight is committed to continue its programmatic efforts irrespective of the locations and with the support and generosity of our esteemed funding agencies.

My sincere gratitude is due to Board of Directors and all Candlelight staff who devoted their time and energy to support the underprivileged communities as well as to all of our stakeholders, who gave their very best throughout the phases of implementing the projects to ensure the needs of the vulnerable communities are addressed.

Best wishes

Fardus Awil Jama
The Executive Director



3. About Us

Candlelight works all over Somaliland implementing dozens of projects in environment/livelihood, education/skills training, health/gender and emergency preparedness response.

Candlelight for Environment, Education & Health was founded in 1995 as a non-profit making organization dedicated to development issues in under-served and/or marginalized Somaliland communities.

The force behind the emergence of Candlelight as an organization was the fact that the civil war in Somalia had left behind extensive loss of human lives, destruction of infrastructures and depletion of livelihood of the people. At that time, the needs were many and local development actors were few. Even other similar local institutions were in their nascent stage and lacking the capacity and expertise which is necessary for the delivery of crucial services to civilian communities who had been adversely affected by the civil war.

“ Our interventions target the under-privileged segments of the communities with special focus on youth, women, and children, disable people and internally displaced people ”

Since then, the organization has quickly grown from being a nascent institution to a developed effective and credible organization with interventions in all the six regions of Somaliland. Candlelight operates through four main strategic and well positioned offices in Somaliland; Hargeysa (Head Office), and sub-offices in Sheikh, Burao and Erigavo. The number of staff (core and project based are now over 80 persons) of whom 30 are women. This enabled Candlelight to build partnership relations with multiple funding agencies, public institutions and grass root communities.

Candlelight carefully studies and analyses the diverse community needs and then, strategically prioritized its interventions on environmental restoration and protection, provision of quality primary education and skills training, awareness rising on FGM and health issues as well as actively contributing to emergency response during drought & disease outbreaks.

Candlelight has four departments and each carries out a main strategic intervention. The departments manage and implement enormous projects throughout the country. The departments are run by experienced teams with multi-disciplinary and technical skills and committed to deliver quality services to the communities in need.

4. Work Diagram



We are committed to

1. Working towards the improvement of the environmental situation of the country.
2. Advancing education by the provision of facilities for schooling and other learning opportunities as well as vocational training for the youth and women.
3. Improving the living conditions of low-income women, pastoralists and agro-pastoralists by helping them through income generation/diversification activities.
4. Awareness creation on health issues and hygiene and sanitation promotion programs and women's reproductive health.
5. Responding to humanitarian needs of affected communities during disasters.



5. The Evolution of Candlelight

“Our Board of Directors is the driving force for the organization’s growth and development. They shed the light to our work and lay down organization’s policies and procedures”

Candlelight is governed by a Board of Directors of seven members entrusted with overall responsibility of the organization through provision of oversight, leadership and guidance. The Board further determines the organization’s philosophy as well as work on organizational policies, manuals, approves annual narrative and audit reports. The Board of Directors appoints a strong management team comprised of heads of departments headed by an Executive Director who is in charge of execution of day to day operations, leads the organization in accordance with its constitution, strategic plan and policies laid down by the Board.

“We strive to focus on strategic programming frameworks of the organization to make it more responsive to the current and emerging needs of the social sector”

Our Strategic Philosophy

Vision statement

To be recognized and respected as a local organization that continues to nurture Somaliland communities that environmentally conscious, literate, healthy, economically self-reliant, and peaceful.

Mission statement

Candlelight is a non-governmental organization that strives to bring about positive changes in communities through environmental conservation, provision of quality education and creation of awareness rising on health issues.

6. Thematic Areas

Environment and livelihood

Candlelight dedicated substantial amount of their funding to address the pressing issues of environmental degradation and livelihood support to build resilience communities from the climatic recurrent shocks.

Education and Skills Training

Candlelight believes education is the key to peace and prosperity to every community, education is a strong and powerful weapon to eradicate inequality, discrimination ignorance and any form of human right abuses. In 2016 alone, Candlelight has reached thousands of children, youth, and women through provision of formal and informal education opportunities.

Health and Gender

Candlelight is at the forefront and an active player in the promotion of health and gender issues. It works towards the enhancement of health and social well-being through capacity building, hygiene and sanitation campaigns, human rights promotion. Its actions against Female Genital Mutilation/ Cutting have had far reaching effects and positive impact among the communities including girls, youth, women, IDPs and other vulnerable groups.

Emergency Preparedness and Response

Candlelight provides community awareness for disaster preparedness plans through building communities traditional coping mechanism. During and after emergencies, Candlelight stands with the community to support with immediate relief, addresses immediate needs and offers rehabilitation supports.

Income Generation activities

Candlelight implements projects with income generation activities through Self Help Group (SGH) Approach and establishment of women cooperatives with the aim of building self-resilient communities. SHG along direct beneficiaries are 6,840, all of whom are women. The project further indirectly benefits 3595 children.

7. Environment and Livelihood projects

7.1 Sustainable Rangeland and Forest Management System

The vast majority of the Somali people depend mostly on terrestrial resources for their livelihood. Recent years have witnessed losses of the natural and semi-natural vegetation due to factors such as overgrazing, overexploitation of land and forest clearing which has led to decreased ecosystem services and functions. In addition, fuel wood (charcoal) is heavily harvested at a faster rate than natural regeneration can support. This has imposed serious threats to ecosystem integrity, biological diversity and the ability of the soil to function as water storage and the ability of forests to function as carbon sinks. This severe depletion of the ecosystem has contributed to microclimate changes and as a result, the country has witnessed shortage in rainfall with most parts of the country experiencing recurrent droughts. This ongoing ecological degradation has led to low productivity posing negative effects to the Somali people socially and economically. The most affected are the people living in the rural areas.

In order to address these problems, the Ministry of Environment and Rural Development, with the Support of Somaliland Development Fund (SDF) commissioned Candlelight/ADO to implement a project that will focus on enhancing capacity building for sustained natural resource management using a large scale and multi-dimensional approach. The overall goal of this project was to enhance sustainable use of land resources with the aim of upgrading the integrity of the environment and livelihoods through proper rangeland management, effective awareness raising, and promoting the human resource capacity to tackle the pressing socio-economic problems facing the vulnerable communities. The project aims included improving the livelihoods of the pastoral and agro-pastoral households living in the watershed areas as well as areas in the Hawd plateau in Sahil and Marodi Jeex regions and also improving the rangeland condition by strengthening the practice of closing range reserves for proper utilization during the drought periods. In addition, the project involved supporting and creating alternative livelihood skills, training on community based forest resources use, increasing ground cover and reviving the management systems of selected forest reserves.

Somaliland Development Fund project implemented in Gacan-libah, Bookh, Lafar-ruug and Daallo

Highlights

- * 180,496 linear metres of rangeland in Book/Lafaruug rehabilitated.
- * Constructions of 900M3 check dams in Gacan Libah.
- * Benefiting communities trained in sustainable management of natural resources.
- * Production of 63,000 seedlings of endangered plant species.
- * Distribution of beekeeping tool kits to 40 HHs.
- * 2 water pumps provided to benefiting communities
- * Capacity building programs to the local community members
- * Rehabilitation of 2 Berkads
- * Established 2 plant nurseries



Rangeland Rehabilitation
Lafa-ruug,

7.2 Community Resilience Building to Mitigate Effects of Climate Change

Building the capacity of communities to be resilient is critical to effectively pursue sustainable development when confronted with the vagaries of climate change. Climate change is a worldwide phenomenon with local impacts such as more frequent and severe climate related disasters and changing seasonal patterns, which hamper communities in their development efforts to improve their quality of life. The impacts of climate change have had significant social, economic and environmental implications on food security, water resources, human health and well-being, economy, infrastructure, and biodiversity.

In order to meaningfully address these and other climate related risks and impacts, Candlelight secured grants for implementing a project titled “Reducing vulnerability and building community resilience to climate change effects in Togdheer and Sahil regions of Somaliland” funded by German Federal Ministry for Economic Development Cooperation through our partner Kinder Not Hilfe (KNH). The project aim is to increase the resilience of 18,000 poor agro pastoralists and pastoralists’ households in 12 villages in Togdheer and Sahil region to better cope with the adverse social, economic, and ecological impacts of climate change.

The project has made significant strides to ensure sustainable management of natural resources and has boosted social economic status of the vulnerable communities. It has also built the communities’ resilience to better cope when facing medium and long term adverse effects of natural disasters.

Various activities have been carried out this year which include: range land management to retain rainwater for natural regeneration in grazing land/reserves and prevent gully erosions and floods; rehabilitation of 4 in-ground water catchments (Berkads); rehabilitation of 6 shallow wells to increase water availability, farmers trained on best agronomic practices to increase yield production; milk preservation; communities trained on Disaster Risk Reduction and early warning systems to improve community understanding on climate change effects as well as training on sustainable land use and effective management of natural resources.

Another key deliverable for the project has been the strengthening of the inter-agency collaboration between partner NGOs and other stakeholders which has contributed to project success. Candlelight is a member of the Disaster Risk Reduction Working Group (DRRWG) whose objectives include increasing coordination, information sharing, institutional capacity building and advocacy. The project has provided an opportunity for communication between community committees, district administration and line ministries for holistic and collaborative approach to tackling DRR issues in the country.

German Federal Ministry for Economic Development through KNH in collaboration with Candlelight Implemented in Togdheer region

Highlights

- » Rehabilitation of rangeland management of 4,000 hectares.
- » Establishment of nursery in Sheikh and production of 2,200 seedlings.
- » Rehabilitation of 4 in-ground water sources.
- » Trained 10 local youth artisans for Energy Saving Stoves
- » Trained 27 youth Early Warning Systems/traditional forecast.
- » Trained 40 community members on climate change adaptation & DRR.
- » Rehabilitated 6 shallow wells in two target locations.
- » Distributed 6 water pumps with 800M of irrigation pipes.
- » Trained farmers in agronomics and supported with hand tools/seeds
- » Trained communities in milk preservation and provided with stainless steel milk containers trained communities on fodder production and balling techniques.



Range land rehabilitation through soil bunds in Calacule and Qoyta



Rehabilitation of Berkads in Warcimran and Ali Farah



7.3 Strengthening livelihoods of Communities using an innovative approach

Somaliland is currently experiencing a progressive and sustained deterioration of livelihoods which is exacerbated by a combination of multiple reinforcing shocks including drought, accelerated environmental degradation and climate change. The shortage of grazing and browsing matter has put pressure on the normal coping mechanisms of the pastoral and agro-pastoral communities, and thus made them more vulnerable than ever before to climatic shocks.

In both periods of drought and torrential rains, emaciated animals die in great numbers. Thus, International Solidarity Foundation (ISF) in collaboration with Candlelight initiated a project that focused on: improvement of fodder productivity through trainings on agronomic practices; value chain addition for better marketing techniques to improve income for the rural household families; enhancing land fertility through soil and water conservation activities and identifying potential boreholes locations for water drilling.

In addition, the project introduced new and sustainable alternative income generating activities with the aim of diversifying livelihoods through innovative and environmentally-friendly sisal production and processing.

In 2016, the project major achievements include; increasing sisal productivity and enhancing community knowledge specifically on sisal germination, plantation, and value chain addition for possible market linkages. Improving agronomic practices on farming production and trained communities on Farmer Field Schools to promote agriculture production efficiency. Overall, the project has significantly contributed towards enhancing the ability of the target groups to be more resilient to the effects of recurring drought conditions.

International Solidarity Foundation (ISF) in collaboration with Candlelight Implemented project in Sahil region

Highlights

- » 60 women trained in Sisal processing and handcrafting skills.
- » Establishment of Sisal nursery and plantation with 4860 sisal seedlings.
- » Installation of decorticators and twine machine operations.
- » Trained 60 females on sisal processing, plantation, business and leadership skills.
- » Trained communities on usage of decorticators and 4 twine machines for sisal production.
- » Supported tillage for 30 farmers and 30 women groups
- » Procured and distributed indigenous grass species to 30 fodder farmers
- » Established 3 Farmer Field Schools for fodder production and process
- » Hydrogeological survey conducted for project target villages.



Women displaying their sisal products and marketing



7.4 Increasing Farming Production and Building Socioeconomic of the Communities

The Somaliland economy is mainly dependent on pastoral livestock and crop production. Every rural family depends - partially or entirely - on livestock and or farming for its livelihood and food security. Both are important for subsistence and cash income and have potential for higher gains. However, the Somaliland agricultural and livestock sector faces several challenges that are reducing its competitiveness and preventing it from meeting its production potential. Beyond the country's vulnerability to climatic shocks, there are other key factors contributing to poor agricultural production such as; droughts, overgrazing, water scarcity, declining soil fertility for farming production and climate change. The combination of the aforementioned factors has led to a state of chronic food insecurity and widespread poverty.

In order to mitigate these challenges, Candlelight in collaboration with Development Fund has been implementing a project in Suuqsade in Sheikh District with the aim of enhancing food security and socioeconomic wellbeing of the target communities. The project sought to address the underlying causes of the problems and the most urgent needs of these communities.

The main achievements of the project have been (a) improved availability of clean water, (b) improved soil and water conservation to increase soil fertility that will consequently increase agricultural production, (c) distribution of forestry seedlings to contribute the regeneration of the land (d) establishment of women milk cooperatives and provision of milk preservation tools including solar refrigerators with the aim of diversifying income base, particularly among women and (e) Research in Aloe Vera to explore the diversity of the different species of aloes in the target areas and their population trends.

Candlelight in collaboration with Development Fund Implemented project in Suuqsade, Sahil region

Highlights

- 1 community shallow well-constructed, benefiting 51 hh.
- Constructed and furnished one animal health post
- 10,400 Linear Meters of soil Bunds rehabilitated for crop and grass production for 44 HHs
- 600 forestry seedlings distributed to 72 HH in Suuqsade.
- Conducted Aloe Vera assessment to explore Aloe diversity species.
- Trained 30 women on basic book keeping, management and leadership skills
- 42 women benefiting from the On-going literacy/numeracy program in the target communities
- 1 women milk cooperative established and supported with business training
- 30 women provided with milk preservation kits and 2 solar refrigerators.

7.5 Rebuilding Community Confidence on Land Issues in Somaliland

Somaliland is currently facing massive problems in relation to enclosures, evictions, and disputes over access to pasture, rangeland, agricultural land and other natural resources. The disputes over land and other natural resources negatively affected the livelihoods of many families especially in the rural settings. The recovery of people from the poor land governance system and natural disasters has been greatly hampered by the limited or no access to land and other natural resources. Political factors, environmental changes, regional alterations and conflicts influence and shape the dynamics of rural areas. Candlelight therefore found it paramount to mitigate these challenges through a territorial and process oriented approach based on human rights. This is an approach that will enable local communities to protect their rights and livelihood systems and be able to engage in policy dialogues and other decision-making processes. Land governance is an issue that has far reaching consequences relating to food production and security.

In response to the above, Candlelight has been implementing a project designed by FAO and funded by European Union to enhance the institutional and community capacity to engage in land governance and policy development. Thus, the project aims to improve dialogue and communication skills between different stakeholders involved with resolving land disputes and the community's ability to deal with land disagreements.

Trainings were implemented on the basis of FAO participatory methodologies which included Participatory and Negotiated Territorial Development (PNTD), Improving Gender Equality in Territorial Issues (IGETI) and Participatory Land Delimitation (PLD). These reinforced the capacity of selected CBOs, CSOs and or Self-Help Group's (SHG) and equipped them to engage in land governance, negotiations and mobilization of stakeholders at all levels by incorporating diverse opinions in the decision-making process.

Candlelight in collaboration with FAO implemented project in Awdal and Maroodijeex

Highlights

- » Conducted community resource mapping in 24 villages in Maroodijeex and Awdal regions.
- » Conducted Twelve (12) Negotiation Tables (NT) training 480 participants in Participatory and Negotiated Territorial Development methodology (PNTD)
- » Distributed IEC materials in benefiting communities.



Negotiation tables training conducted in Borama and Gabiley

7.6 Enhancing resilience of vulnerable returned IDPs and host communities

Successive droughts since 2014, which have severely hit the agro pastoral and pastoral communities in Somaliland have resulted into exhaustion of the meager pasture and water resources resulting into many pastoral families losing their livestock. . Following this tragedy, there has been continuous large scale migration of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) from their villages/rural areas to other regions or urban centers in search of relatively suitable areas to settle and also access basic necessities of life. Thus, in 2014, Finnish Church Aid in collaboration with Candlelight designed a voluntary relocation program for the IDPs to return to their villages of origin. The project has successfully relocated 300 IDPs to their villages of origin with immediate livelihood recovery support including food ratio, animal restocking, shelter and transport back to their villages.

The relocation program was followed by a resilience and sustainable livelihood project supported by Finnish Church Aid (FCA) and targeting returned IDPs and host communities. The project was implemented in 12 villages in Burao and Odweine districts that are hosting returned IDPs.

This project has directly supported 820 beneficiaries while indirectly reaching out to 5000 households from the 12 villages who are the most vulnerable communities hosting the recently relocated IDPs. The support has mainly included immediate Economic Recovery and Livelihoods (ERL) through cash for work for construction or renovation of water infrastructures, garbage pits and canals.

The benefiting communities were also trained in creating Disaster and Risk Reduction plans (DRR) to withstand and cope with the continuous drought and its effects.

Finnish Church Aid in collaboration with Candlelight project, implemented in Togdheer

Highlights

- * Conducted community mobilization for 12 target villages
- * 720 benefited through cash for work for excavation of garbage pits, carry out soil and water conservation for rangeland rehabilitation, de-silting water catchments
- * Conducted garbage cleaning campaigns in 12 villages
- * 100 HHs benefited from Economic Relief and Livelihood support
- * 50 people trained in WASH/ disaster management risk reduction
- * Procurement and distribution of 720 set of hand tools to 12 villages.



Garbage cleaning and clearing campaign in Oodwayne



Pastry trainees & Beekeeping trainees

8. Education and Skills Training

8.1 Youth empowerment initiative through skills training

Over the past 5 years, Candlelight in partnership with United States African Development Foundation (USADF) has been implementing a program focusing on youth empowerment and skills training.

This program has played a significant role in creating job opportunities for the youth and contributed to reduction of youth unemployment rates in the country. This has been made possible by equipping the youth with marketable skills through technical skills training, provision of start-up tools, equipment and safety materials and provision of small grants to trainees to start-up small-scale businesses after completion of the training. In 2016, a total of 140 youth (50% female) were trained in different skills such as henna application, tailoring, beekeeping, carpentry, hospitality, pastry and auto-mechanics. The practical courses were integrated with entrepreneurship skills, small business management, customer care, creativity and innovative ideas when setting up business plans.

The project has significantly transformed the socio-economic status of the trainees and improved their livelihoods; several of them were able to get job opportunities in workshops, restaurants and government institutions while others started their own businesses. Social and behavioral changes have also been observed among these young men and women, as they are using their time and resources in more beneficial ways that keep them away from engaging in illegal or criminal activities

United State African Development Foundation project in collaboration with Candlelight implemented in Sahil and Togdheer region.

- Highlights**
- » Candlelight successfully trained 140 students in Henna, tailoring, beekeeping, carpentry, hospitality, pastry and auto-mechanics skills.
 - » Provided start up capital for the trainees.



8.2 Empowering girls and women through education

Promoting girl's education has been one of the primary roles of Candlelight since its inception. Educating a girl is educating a whole generation. Candlelight is implementing a project focusing on improving the quality of education and increasing number of girls going to school in rural areas through enhancing communities' awareness on the importance of girls' education.

The project areas are Ainabo, El-Afweine and Erigavo. In 2016, the main activities included: Distribution of scholarship grants to 576 underprivileged poor girls, conducting of evening literacy and numeracy classes for 30 mothers and organizing 40 inter-school's competition in the project target areas.

The promotion of universal girls' education yielded positive results in promoting gender equality, female empowerment and poverty alleviation. In addition, awareness raising on the importance of girls' education is expected to increase enrollment and decrease dropout rates for girls in primary and secondary schools. The project also improved the management of the schools by training Community Education Committees and school management teams in 40 schools. This initiative improved governance and the infrastructure of the schools and will gradually improve the quality of education offered by the schools.

UK Aid and the UK Department for International Development (DFID) Through CARE International Project in collaboration with Candlelight Implemented in Ainabo, El-afweine and Erigavo

Highlights

- * 280 CEC members trained in school governance and fundraising.
- * 73 mentors trained to establish girl's forum in 37 schools to instill confidence and boost their self-esteem to encourage retention and completion in school.
- * 1233 Non-Formal Education (NFE) mothers gained knowledge in assisting their children with their homework and recording keeping for their small business
- * Parent teacher's forums for 40 schools enlightened on the importance of girl's education in their communities.
- * 40 NFE teachers provided with employment opportunities.
- * 576 poor girls received grants to improve the economic status of their respective families.

8.3 Educating one, educating a Generation

Education is a human right and a foundation for development which improves the lives of young people. There has been progress in increasing access to primary and secondary education. This progress has often been accompanied by necessary provisions for ensuring quality education for learners and increasing opportunities to join institutions of higher learning to attain degrees that will enhance their social participation and employment opportunities; as well as the resultant earnings and improved quality of life.

In this respect, since 1998 Candlelight has been running primary and Secondary Schools in Burao, to attract young learners to get quality education that will impact and enhance not only their livelihood but also build a prosperous future for the nation. Over the last two years, Candlelight has made massive changes in the school management systems through building strong internal control systems based on minimum management supervision, financial accountability and transparency, hiring competent and qualified teachers as well as improving the relationship between community education committee and School management. These changes have led to improved student academic performance. In 2015 – 2016, 25% of the students in both schools scored straight A in their general examinations while 77% scored straight B. Candlelight has also taken a courageous step forward to replicate the best practices in Burao Schools and open a primary school from grade 1- 4 in Erigavo, the capital city of Sanaag region. The need was identified following a situational analysis which revealed that there was a dire need to enroll pupils in these lower grades as compared to the upper grades in Erigavo.

Candlelight Primary and Secondary schools, Burao and Erigavo

Highlights

- Candlelight Burao Primary/Secondary School established in 1998.
- Over 4000 students have since graduated from the School.
- Candlelight Erigavo had its Primary School since 2015.
- Currently Candlelight Burao and Erigavo Secondary and Primary Schools are hosting 993 students, 58% girls.
- In 2015 – 2016, 25% of the students attained straight A mark while 77% of the students attained straight B.



9. Health and Gender

9.1 Integrating Approach of Reducing FGM/C in Somaliland

Female Genital Mutilation/ Cutting (FGM/C) has for many centuries been, and still is a very common practice in Somaliland. Its prevalence rate is 98% with most of the girls undergoing circumcision at the age between 6 -14 years according to a study conducted in 2014 by Nafis Network. FGM/C is so grounded in the cultural beliefs and morality of the people, founded on a predominant belief that the procedure maintains virginity, controls unbridled sexual urge and has a purifying action. The preconceived belief is that an uncircumcised girl is unchaste and not fit for marriage, and the removal of some parts of the female organ guarantees community acceptance of the girl for marriage and other social functions.

Some of the driving forces which perpetuate the practice of FGM/C include the economic gains for FGM/C practitioners when they perform the procedure and lack of policies to outlaw FGM/C. While there is a policy in Somaliland which makes the practice and performance of Type III circumcision illegal, it is silent about the other severe types of FGM/C that are performed under the name of “Sunnah” which is regarded as a less severe form of FGM/C. In addition to these driving forces, the authorities are incapable (or even have no interest) of taking action against those who breach the policy in relation to Type III circumcision.

In response to these problems, Candlelight, with support from Kinder Not Hilfe has over the past 3 years been implementing a project on “Community education about FGM/C consequences and livelihood support in Sahil regions.” This integrated project addresses the problem of FGM/C and supports communities to improve and sustain their livelihoods.

Some of the main activities of the project included: community sensitization on the complications of FGM/C, assistance packages to farmers, women empowerment through literacy and numeracy, cash for work for water sources rehabilitation and feeder roads for lowering transportation costs. As a result, this project has not only had a great impact by changing community perceptions towards FGM/C but also boosted the social economic status of the target communities and their capacity to minimize environment degradation.

Kinder Not Hilfe in collaboration with Candlelight implemented this project in Sheikh District.

Highlights

- Conducted refresher training for 56 anti- FGM/C committees
- Conducted sensitization workshop for 40 religious scholars (50% female) on FGM/C
- Conducted sensitization training for 30 peer-to-peer students on FGM/C
- Distributed IEC materials on FGM/C.
- Conducted sensitization training on FGM/C for 40 community members in Sheikh town
- Former circumcisers trained in tailoring and provided with 10 sewing machines as alternative sources of income to denounce performing of FGM/C practice
- Organized literacy and numeracy classes in seven villages for 60 students.
- 50 farmers provided with seeds and farming tillage hours.
- Rehabilitation of communal in-ground water catchment with a capacity of 420m3 in Gugux village.



Community provision of tillage hours



9.2 Educating community about the complication of FGM/C

FGM/C is a long-standing cultural practice of cutting away parts of the external female genitalia and is most commonly performed on girls between the ages 6-14, though it can take place at any age from infancy to adolescence. Typically called female “circumcision” by those who practice it, FGM/C is not only traumatic but highly dangerous and often leads to life-long pain and suffering and in worst case scenarios death of the girls who are subjected to the procedure. In Somaliland the number of girls who are subjected to FGM is one of the highest in the world with an estimated prevalence of 98%. FGM can be divided into different types ranging from type I to III. Type III of this classification involves cutting off of all external genitalia and narrowing the labia majora and labia minora, also referred to as infibulation, which historically has been a common practice in the Horn of Africa. Among the women in Somaliland 90% undergo Type III FGM.

Community Education on Female Genital Mutilation is a project funded by International Solidarity Foundation, Finland (ISF). This project has been implemented in 6 villages in Maroodijeex region and its objectives are to increase community knowledge on the negative effects of FGM/C through providing a variety of trainings and awareness campaigns among the communities including parents, youth, and religious leaders.

Anti-FGM committees have been established in each village to pre-identify the potential FGM victims and take courageous steps to stop the practices before action takes place in their respective villages. Similarly, the project has also sought support and engaged with women journalists, university students and media groups to join the efforts of denouncing all forms of FGM/C and contributing to a long term goal of eradicating all forms of FGM/C in Somaliland.

International Solidarity Foundation in collaboration with Candlelight project, implemented in Maroodijeex.

Highlights

- 230 community members (parents, youth and religious leaders) from 5 villages trained about FGM/C and its health consequences
- Conducted community clarification open session Islamic perspective of FGM.
- Actively participated in the 16 days of activism to fight against VAW, Specifically FGM/C to end violence against women and girls
- Female Journalists and University students engaged to denounce all forms of FGM/C
- Open debates between students about negative effects on FGM/C and changing community attitudes.





9.3 Social and Economic Empowerment of Women through Self Help Groups (SHG)

The Self Help Group (SHG) approach was introduced in Somaliland by Kinder Not Hilfe (KNH) in late 2013 but rooted down in 2014 following the selection of committed and dedicated promoting NGO's. The approach was initiated as a pilot project in Hargeisa, the capital city of Somaliland and currently the program is being introduced gradually to other cities like Burao and Berbera.

SHGs are small women groups of 15 to 20 and each group develops a saving and credit scheme, which provides an opportunity to economically empower each member of the group. The approach is founded on the premise of mutual support and self-reliance. Since 2013, Candlelight has made tremendous achievements in improving the livelihoods of thousands of women and children through the Self Help Group approach which has; provided opportunities for women to be entrepreneurs; empowered families to ensure children have access to education; established strong relationships among women groups and in their vicinity as well as supported government initiatives to enhance security.

The main activities of this year included: formation of 10 new Self Help Groups (SHGs) in Mohamed Mooge and State House IDPs, formation of 2 Cluster Level Associations (CLAs), continuous capacity building trainings and regular monitoring assessments to ensure that weekly meetings, savings, and investments are taking place. The distinctive achievement for the Self Help Groups program has been dramatically increasing for the past 4 years and impacted the livelihood through women economic empowerment, supported children's education, contributed social cohesion of their communities as well as establishing strong ties with government institutions to work hand in hand to participate stabilization in their communities.

Kinder Not Hilfe in collaboration with Candlelight, implementing Self Help Group Program in Hargeisa:

Highlights

- 11 organizations are working together to promote the SHG approach in Somaliland
- Candlelight alone has established 1,140 women members with the group capital of \$44, 975, 00.
- SHG members are so far supporting 450 of their offspring to get primary and secondary education.



10. Emergency Preparedness and Response

10.1 Livelihood Support for Drought affected households in Sanag Region

Somaliland is climatically characterized by semi-arid environment with low population density whose main economic activity is predominantly dependent on pastoral production. The current population of Somaliland is estimated at about 3,508,180 people (UNDP, 2014). Around 65% of this Somaliland population is pastoralists.

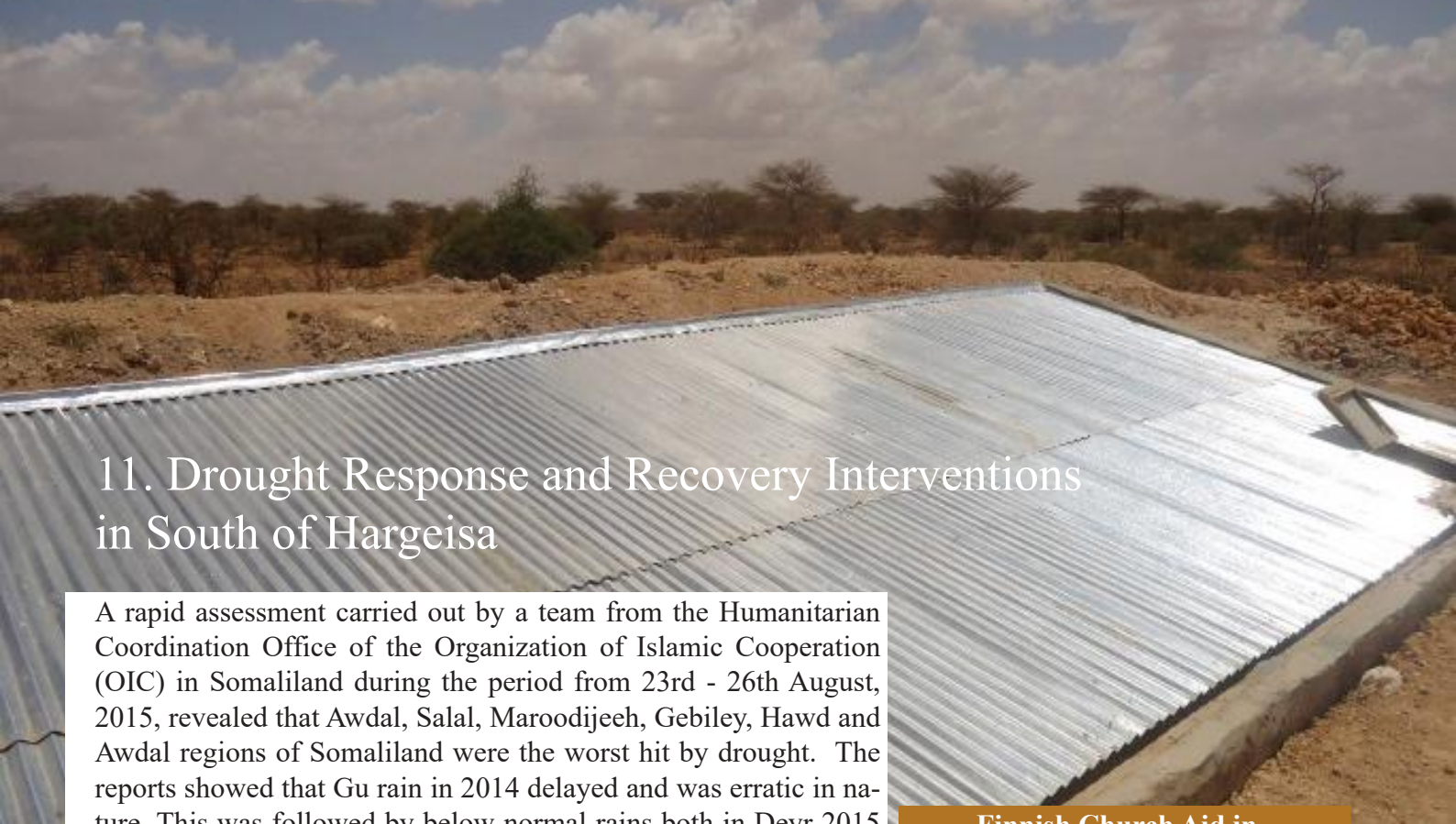
Drought episodes have been a re-current feature since the recent decades, in terms of frequency and intensity. This is also exacerbated by near exhaustion of vegetation cover, particularly the grass and shrub species which are important for grazing and browsing livestock. Changes in micro-climate due to land use conversions and effects of global climate change has had its far-reaching negative impacts on vegetation, soil and wildlife, and subsequently on livestock production and livelihoods of thousands of pastoralists in rural Somaliland. The situation in Sanaag region is made complex by the adverse climatic effects, mainly in the form of recurring and long-lasting drought. The failure of last Gu (spring) season and delay of expected Deyr (autumn) rains worsened the whole situation which resulted into depletion of grazing and browsing matter which the population in this region depends on for their livestock production. Severe water shortage and food insecurity has been experienced by this population. There is heavy pressure on the normal coping mechanisms and way of living, and thus making the people more vulnerable than ever before. This has led to unsustainable utilization of natural resources through charcoal burning, illegal logging, deforestation etc. as people seek new economic coping strategies to survive during this drought situation.

These negative coping strategies will lead to greater setback for their livelihoods and production systems that will be hard to reverse, because the destruction of this natural wealth will increase their vulnerability to future shocks. In responding to this emergency, Candlelight in collaboration with Kinder Not Hilfe carried out water trucking for 1040 households, distributed 4 kilograms of dates each to 616 malnourished women/children, and conducted public awareness on hygiene/sanitation sessions and community training on disaster management and reduction.

Kinder Not Hilfe in collaboration with Candlelight project, implemented in Sanag region.

Highlights

- 1040 hh supported with 200 liters of water each through water trucking
- Conducted public awareness on Hygiene and sanitation through distribution of IEC materials.
- 616 malnourished women/children provided with 4kg of dates each family
- Conducted community trainings in disaster management and risk reduction.



11. Drought Response and Recovery Interventions in South of Hargeisa

A rapid assessment carried out by a team from the Humanitarian Coordination Office of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) in Somaliland during the period from 23rd - 26th August, 2015, revealed that Awdal, Salal, Maroodijeeh, Gebiley, Hawd and Awdal regions of Somaliland were the worst hit by drought. The reports showed that Gu rain in 2014 delayed and was erratic in nature. This was followed by below normal rains both in Deyr 2015 and Gu' 2015. Prior to the drought episode in the above mentioned regions, the coastal areas of Awdal experienced long standing drought that ran for a number of years, which left behind a critical state of destitution among communities in those areas. The current drought caused high rate of population cross-regional migration; seeking assistance in terms of food, water and grass for the animals while many others went begging in the main towns after losing all their livestock.. The standing problems in the areas include food insecurity, malnutrition at its climax, high death rates of animals. The elderly, sick and other vulnerable groups can be seen in bigger numbers in the villages as a result of them not coping with the harsh conditions of the pastoral life.

In this respect, Candlelight secured funding from its partner, Finnish Church Aid (FCA) to implement a drought recovery project in ten drought affected villages in Baligubadle and Maroodijeeh regions of Somaliland. The three months project running from June to August 2016 had its main beneficiaries being pastoral and agro pastoral households that heavily rely on natural resources and availability of rain and pasture for their livelihood. These beneficiaries were supported to cope with the effects of drought by addressing the shortage of water through rehabilitation of 13 Berkads and desilting of two Balis. The project has had considerable positive impact and resulted into improved water availability throughout the dry seasons. The average volume and size of the rehabilitated Berkads is estimated at 490 Cubic meters (13m long x 8m wide x 5m high) yielding 2450 barrels of water per Berkad translating into 18 - 20% increase of water for household and livestock in target villages particularly Baha Dhamal, Bali Kaliil villages which received moderate rain in last week of November 2016

Finnish Church Aid in collaboration with Candlelight project, implemented in South of Hargeisa

Highlights

- Rapid assessments conducted in 10 sample villages for drought affected communities.
- Conducted community mobilization for project beneficiaries' identification, activities planning, implementation and monitoring.
- 13 water points (Berkads) in five villages constructed/ rehabilitated and 2 balis desilted.
- Communities trained in disaster management and risk reduction.



11. Candlelight Statement of Financial Position

As at 31 December 2016

USD

1 Income

| | |
|--|------------------|
| Grant and Donations Received | 1,913,289 |
| Other Income (candlelight contributions) | 110,012 |
| Total Income | 2,023,301 |

2 Expenses

| | |
|---------------------------|------------------|
| Project Expenses | 1,494,529 |
| Administration Expenses | 334,192 |
| Other Expenses | 110,012 |
| Depreciation Expenses | 0.00 |
| Total Expenditures | 1,938,732 |

Fund balance as year ended 84,568

These Financial Statements were approved by the Board members on 30 June 2017 and signed on their behalf by:

Chairperson / Executive Board Member  _____

Secretary  _____

Treasurer  _____



12. Candlelight Statement of Financial Position

As at 31 December 2016

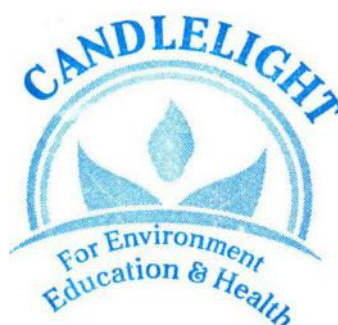
| | <u>Notes</u> | 2016 USD |
|---------------------------------------|--------------|----------------|
| Non-current assets | | |
| Property, plant & equipment | 1 | 664,671 |
| Current Assets | | |
| Accounts Receivables | [2] | 126,082 |
| Cash in hand | [2] | 1,798 |
| Cash at bank | [2] | 82,770 |
| Total current assets | | 210,651 |
| Total Assets | | 875,322 |
| EQUITY AND LIABILITIES | | |
| Capital and reserves | | |
| Revenue reserve | | 869,122 |
| Total | | 869,122 |
| Current liabilities | | |
| Creditors & Accruals | [3] | 6,200 |
| Total Equity & Liabilities | | 875,322 |

These Financial Statements were approved by the Board members on 30 June 2017 and signed on their behalf by:

Chairperson / Executive Board Member 

Secretary 

Treasurer 





Why Candlelight focuses more on women?
Women are the center of our work because they are disproportionately affected by poverty, left alone with household responsibility and suffer violation in the realization of their rights. The experience shows that, when we empower and equip women with proper resources, women have the power to transform the whole family and entire community overcome poverty marginalization and social injustices.



Candlelight believes education is a basic human right for every child and an ultimate powerful weapon to eliminate inequality, ignorance and poverty



Candlelight

Headquarter office: Hargeisa. Sub-offices: Sheikh| Burao| Erigavo

Liaison office: Nairobi, Kenya

E-mail: candasli@yahoo.com Website: www.candlelightsom.org

Phone: + 252 63 4427848 + 252 63 4426069

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