

INTEGRATED DEVELOPMENT FOCUS (IDF) –SOMALI ANNUAL REPORT 2022



Somali Wellness and Economic Recovery Project

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IDF-Somalia

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From the Director



Integrated Development Focus –Somali (IDF) is a non-profit organization focused on improving IDF pursues a rights based approach grounded on the belief that people are entitled to a claim of basic conditions of living with dignity and access to opportunity and dignity, as a basis of fulfilling their human potential. IDF therefore seeks to stimulate sustainable developmental change amongst vulnerable communities living in south central region. IDF’s mandate and core business is to facilitate humanitarian assistance to disaster affected communities, resilience building and general community development. These ambitions are realized through (core strategies of) knowledge transfer, influencing, brokering linkages and facilitating/ implementing integrated people centred humanitarian and development programs. The main developmental approach of IDF is to enable communities find solutions to their socio-economic challenges.

The main target groups of IDF include vulnerable and marginalized pastoralists, poor urban communities, internally displaced persons (IDP) (individuals, families, groups and communities). Pursuance of a system and integrated approach to programming, the organization collaborates closely with likeminded institutions from the CSO, public and private sectors such as GCERF. In this regard IDF is a member of various networks such as Somalia South-Central Non State Actors (SOSCENSA), SWERC Peace and Human Rights Network (PHRN), Somali NGO Consortium, Gedo Peace Consortium (GPC) and East, Horn of Africa Human Rights Defenders (EHAHRD), Food Security Cluster, Protection Cluster, Education Cluster and WASH Cluster. IDF has graciously received technical and financial support from amongst others FAO, WVI, WFP, PACT, UNHCR, DFID, OFDA/USAID, UNICEF, UNDP, FAO ECHO/EU, UN etc. directly or indirectly.

Community mental Health and well-being are often the primary healthcare concerns for many communities globally. As populations and incidences of mental health disorders grow, communities face new complexities in effectively delivering healthcare services and economic development. Often, there are only few mental health professionals (MHP) responsible for the care of the entire villages. On average, a mental health professional provides care for over 1,000 villagers as well as monitoring their health regularly. One key challenge for the paraprofessionals is remembering when his/her patients need to be seen and the degree of urgency of each patient. Some patients can wait a few weeks to be seen, while others cannot wait more than a few hours depending on the situation.

The MHPs rely on their memory and notebooks to log their healthcare visits and patient information, but this can often lead to missed visits, care oversights, and untimely delivery of care. For the MHP and NGOs on the ground, a key challenge is managing large amount of this patient data in an organized and accessible system. This capability would enable accurate diagnosis of medical conditions, prescription of relevant treatments, and most importantly, timely delivery of care and on-going monitoring of youth mental health condition and economic development within the communities in the region.

IDF has partnered with GCERF through a consortium of four local NGOs to deliver support and training on mental health well-being to train community youth on paraprofessional mental health and well-being course to provide psychological support to the communities to reduce mental health issues. The trained MHP will be able to deliver support to the patient and referrals to health centres and MHP will follow up on patient and send report about mental health situations for specific communities as well as provide counselling sessions for youth as well as to improve integration and reintegration of youth, thereby reducing their vulnerability to violent extremism.

I would like to draw the attention of the people in Gedo region and Somalia to certain things which, in my view, are mission critical for delivering sustainable aid: we at IDFs want to motivate the local population to actively participate in the design of our projects and to create a future that can make everyone happy in the long term.

Thanks

“Together We Can Make Difference”

Overview

This report of IDF-S's work is set against a backdrop of ongoing global and internal such as armed conflicts, protracted humanitarian crisis and natural disaster as a precursor to climate change. This report tells of how IDF-S has operated within this context, in response to but also influenced by the external environment. The report provides a detailed overview of how the Fund operated, how it was utilized, and how it supported cluster targets and objectives, in line with priorities outlined in the 2021 project outlines. The report also provides an updated account of the management and accountability standards utilized by the IDF-SOMALIA.

This report offers a story of resilience in turbulent times. It shows the connection between the community we work with, and the donor supporting IDF-S and partners' support in solidarity, and how together in 2022 we co-created change through the purposive allocation and responsive utilization of donor funding from GCERF.

External Context

COVID-19

Despite the less intense of Covid in light of a vaccine roll out, the inequalities experienced as a result of the pandemic intensified in 2021 –22 with health inequalities as well as inequalities in power and wealth compounding disadvantage experienced by women, and other excluded marginalized groups as a result of patriarchy, and other replicating and exposing structures of colonialism and driving uneven mortality rates globally. Inequalities were exacerbated since, after the brief surge of spending to respond to the immediate Covid spike, by late 2021 countries including Somalia came under economic pressure that has acutely affected her citizens both physically, and psychologically.

Summary Context

Climate Change

The extractive and patriarchal economic system continues to accelerate the global climate crisis. With greenhouse gas emissions continuing to rise, the world is not yet on track to meet the Paris Agreement goal of limiting warming to 1.5°C. Throughout 2022, climate disasters such as flash floods, acute drought and heat waves has been experienced in Gedo region same to other parts of Somalia as a precursor to severe environmental challenges such as land degradation, increasing aridity, overgrazing, and water scarcity affected vulnerable communities whilst causing displacement, hunger and suffering, and escalating costs in damage of loss properties and loss of lives.

The impacts of a warming planet are already disproportionately affecting the highly marginalized and vulnerable people (women and children) in Gedo region and those that have done the least to cause the climate crisis. Women and girls, who tend to be most dependent on land and natural resources and who disproportionately have roles securing food and water for their families, are particularly at risk.

These human suffering resulting from the effects of climate change has resulted to increased cases of depression and mental health crisis amongst the high risk population in Gedo.

In summary, the protracted exposure to climate tremors has had an adverse effect on Somalian communities in this case those in Gedo region, making it grim for already vulnerable people to cope with the adverse impacts of climate change and the COVID-19 pandemic. People's pliability is enfeebled, forcing them to rely on humanitarian aid and livelihoods that destroys the environment so as to survive.

Overview

Internal Context

Belet-Hawa is one of the six districts in Gedo Region, Somalia. In the past, BeletHawa District and northern Gedo in general has experienced food security challenges that has led to peoples livelihoods greatly compromised. The food security situation has been jeopardized by both man-made and natural factors. In particular, the fluid security situation has hampered delivery of relief food; free movement of trucks carrying imported goods and interrupted peoples livelihoods including farming activities

It is one of the most densely populated districts (17persons/km) in Gedo region with an estimated population size of about 83,116 of which 26,920 are urban and 56,196 are rural. This district is located along the border of Kenya to the west, Ethiopia to the northwest, El-Wak district to the southwest, Luuq district to the east and Garbaharey district to the southwest. According to FSNAU, the population of the district can be broken down in the food economy groups as shown on Table 1.

#	Food Economy	Population	%
1	Pastoral (Dawa)	45,714	55
2	Agro-pastoral Southern	8,312	10
3	Dawa Pump Irrigation Farmers	1,662	2
4	Urban	27,428	33
	Total	83,116	100

Political situation

The project areas Balet-hawa has been faced by a lot of political and security crisis, this has been as a result of political instability in the region. The open conflict between the previous Federal government and the Jubbaland state government was widely cited as the chief contributor to the crisis, delayed elections and release of completed elections in the Gedo region added fuel to the already scorching crisis as a result of the political instability in various levels, as a result, clan differences, mistrust and open war flares were witnessed in the second quarter of this project, however, IDF put in place all the risk measures to protect the beneficiaries and the staff from the embers of these crisis.

However, there is a rekindled tinge of hopes in the region since the delayed elections of the Federal government of Somalia (FGS) due to political disputes was finally conducted and successfully completed on 15th, May 2022. Somalia's 329 Members of Parliaments (MPs) re-elected former president Hassan Sheikh Mohamud in a contest of 36 registered presidential candidates, the new president is posed to be the 10th president of the FGS for the next 4 years as the 2012 provisional constitution dictates.

President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud, appointed Hamza Abdi Barre a member of lower house parliament, on 15th June, 2022 during as the new prime minister, a choice that was enormously approved by the parliament. These political moves by the current regime has brought hopes in Gedo region and Ballet-Hawa since the new premier has complete support of the people from this region.

The political instability in Jubbaland and Gedo region is expected to improve, the cooperation between the Federal government of Somalia and Jubbaland administration, and seen by political pundits to be improving going forward. The new president during his inaugural speech promised a more cohesive approach dealing with controversial issues a move that has been welcomed by the Citizens of Gedo region as progressive in bridging the indifferences between the two levels of government has for many years hindered the government service and humanitarian aid from reaching the thousands of civilians in the state and who are under the iron grip of the Al- Shabaab thus no access to health care and basic human needs.

Currently, Balet-Hawa District and northern Gedo in general have experienced food security challenges that has led to people's livelihoods greatly compromised. The food security situation has been instigated by both man-made and natural factors. In particular, the fluid security situation has hampered delivery of relief food; free movement of trucks carrying imported goods therefore interrupting people's livelihoods.

Overview

As the situation gets worst, youth and women have been ignored and totally forgotten by the larger part of the society, Somalia is traditionally a patriarchal society that has left women at the periphery of decision making on key issues directly affecting them and their children. This therefore calls for more awareness of women and men on the importance of inclusivity in decision making as opposed to the current state where all critical decision are made by the male elders.

SECURITY SITUATION

The security situation is relatively calm however there is tension emanating from the Al- Shabab resurgence due to pressure of internal uprising within their ranks in Galmudug, Bay and Bakol region, thus they have been pushed towards Jubaland making the region a safe haven. In recent past several attacks have been reportedly carried out by this Militants.

- On 25th September, 2022; National Intelligence of Somali Army NISA travelling from the Garbaharey to Balat-Hawa where ambushed by Al-shabab, leaving seven dead and scores seriously injured.
- On 26th September, 2022 at Balat-Hawaone, suspected militants hurled a hand grenade in Hassan Mohamed Ganey house with the aim of taking his out. The militants accused Hassan to have being an informant to the local administration, no casualties reported after this incident.

The rising case of insecurity and perennial activities of the Alshabab militants has brought fear and anxiety among the residents of this region.





Operationalization of SWERC Business Network

In the third quarter of the project, IDF-S was able to establish 45 SWERC Business Network. IDF-S recruited business the identified businesses, and clustered them into networks and helped them get registered in the Belet-Hawa District.

Out of the 45 identified businesses it was only 41 businesses that submitted bid documents during the tendering process. The 41 members of the business network submitted bid quotations, which were vetted and evaluated for the support award. The seed fund was disabused to the 30 out of 41 members of the business network who qualified for the support during tendering process.

The selected business networks went through a rigorous sensitization and training process revolving around the SWERC project, youth involvement in business, and grants, during which IDF-S used all of the necessary tools and standards provided by the consortium.

The selected business network members received seed funds in the form of items or goods donations. Before receiving the support, the business networks were thoroughly vetted and evaluated, and the structure of the business network was established.

This activity was designed in such a way that that the measure of changed would be measured by its inclusiveness in hiring and mentoring local youth into business and modelling them into future business owners.

IDF-S' designed this activity under the assumptions that the local business community can improve social cohesion and creating a sense of belonging amongst the youth. With the realization of this, we can therefore have it cited as our success story to this activity.

OUR STRATEGIC CONTEXT

Despite the numerous success stories and feedback, a number of beneficiaries requested for more sensitization session and future training in order to bring the business network members together to discuss their progress, achievements, and challenges, as well as to expand their businesses for the betterment of the local economy.

Through the four days Pre-Radio Program Survey forums conducted in partnership with the local FM radio station, the community members voiced their opinions and praised the intervention as beneficial to the community's social and economic growth.

The community expressed their hopes that the SWERC project will expand the seed grants to help more youth with their economic recovery. They further proposed more sensitization forums to bring business network members together to discuss their progress, achievements, and challenges, as well as to expand their businesses in order to improve the local economy.

Because of the poor humanitarian and economic situation, the local communities have high expectations that the business network will grow into a larger activity with more members incorporated into the program, we noted this as the major short coming of this activity due to the limited fund allocated to IDF-S. We however, are working around the clock to secure more financial and technical support from other funders to bridge in the gap identified in the project.

As a result of the region's current humanitarian and economic crisis, local communities have high expectations of receiving humanitarian assistance from local NGOs. It is critical to communicate to local communities how SWERC differs from traditional humanitarian programs and to raise local community awareness of our program's goals. As a result, we encourage GCERF to collaborate with our team in developing strategies to increase awareness and understanding among government stakeholders and local communities.

To summarize, the key lesson learned during the period is that effective teamwork and collaboration with other partners are critical and effective factors in ensuring proper coordination of different activities, for any intervention implementation to achieve set objectives and positively impact communities when they are involved in the process. The community's ownership of the project ensures their commitment, which is critical for the project's positive outcome in terms of reducing community vulnerability and ensuring sustainability.

Many local business leaders expressed an interest in participating in future SWERC activities and contributing to the SWERC project. Aside from the business network activities, IDF staff will work to include private sector stakeholders in future activities, as well as encourage local business leaders to adopt youth inclusive business practices and contribute to youth resilience to violence.

IDF-S involved all levels of government and other key stakeholders in project implementation so as to ensure community ownership of the project



INSPIRING STORIES OF CHANGE

Arlia Hassan Ali (Mental Health Para-professional Trainee)

Arlia is a 23-year-old woman who has benefited from mental health paraprofessional training in the last three quarters. She lives with her parents. Arlia Hassan's family is very open, so she is used to having very little freedom. This meant she didn't have enough time to socialize with her friends. She had to give up her social life and some other liberties in order to focus on traditional family responsibilities.

The lifestyle differences between Arlia Hassan's family and her neighbors caused ongoing family conflicts. Arlia was frequently subjected to violence. As a result of this situation, Arlia developed severe depression. She complained about a lack of sleep at night, a lack of interest in family life, and a lack of involvement in school. Arlia had made several unsuccessful attempts to flee her home in order to gain her freedom.

Arlia was counseled and trained by the lead trainer and supervisor during her attendance at the Mental Health Para-professional Training. Because she was dealing with a family issue, her Trainers also invited her parents to a few counselling sessions.

Arlia Hassan's and her parents' lives have improved as a result of the training and counseling they received. Her parents decided to relocate and start a new life in their own home. As a family, they started a small business. After witnessing Arlia and her family's close relationship, society began to reconsider the situation. They are now acting appropriately around Arlia. Her family appears to be changing their minds and becoming more optimistic about Arlia Hassan's chances of attending college, and she hopes to begin her studies soon.



OUR STRATEGIC CONTEXT

Community Engagement and Learning

On January 25th, 2022, IDF held a community consultative meeting attended by community leaders, government officials, and representatives from the District's women's groups.

The meeting was graced by the Vice District Commissioner and the Head of District Humanitarian Affairs, who both welcomed the SWERC project, emphasizing that it can bring change to today's youth in the district in terms of both social and economic development.

On January 26th, 2022, IDF held a community consultative meeting attended by youth groups and representatives from Persons Living with Disability PLWD in the District.

The meeting was graced by a local youth leader and a member of the PLWD in the district.

Both the youth and the PLWD have welcomed the project, emphasizing that the SWERC project will mean even more to them in the coming years because they are the intended beneficiaries.

Activities Summary

Community market assessment (CMA)

Conducted in the Beled Hawa district in order to obtain a clear market functional analysis, skill availability, demand, and barriers / gaps of business in Beled Hawa. The evaluation was carried out in two Riverine locations (Malkariyey and Gawido) as well as two main markets (Farjano and Golon height) in Beled Hawa town. This levy took four days to reach the intended audience.

Purpose of Study/Objective

The CMA's goal was to provide a better understanding of labor market needs and opportunities, and as a result, it will be able to provide a better understanding of the context. For more effective project implementation, the project team was able to understand the key dynamics and focal points within the labor market. Finally, the CMA will be used to select project and training beneficiaries.

Methodology

Individual surveys targeting various community households were uploaded to online mobile data collection.

Findings

Respondents were asked a series of questions about business skills, needed support, employment preferences, and business challenges.

Market Analysis

Business owners interviewed specialize in beautification, sewing, food production, food wholesale, bakery, and *Khat (Mira)*-sellers... They recommended several sectors and types of businesses for livelihood development, including retail markets, salons, taxis, sewing, livestock, food production, agriculture, bakery, and restaurants. It was discovered that people spend the majority of their money on daily consumption foods, rent, utilities, and non-food items. Most families in the target area do not have savings and cannot afford to buy all necessary items due to a lack of income and price increases.



Head of the district humanitarian Affairs Mr. Mohamed Farah flanked by the Vice District Commissioner during the community consultative meeting: PHOTO BY IDF-S

OUR STRATEGIC CONTEXT



Trained mental health paraprofessional receiving certificates.

Business Skills and Support Needed (Demand)

The survey respondents were asked about the skills and support their businesses require in terms of trainings, particularly for women. Retail, agriculture, office work, teaching, accounting, tailoring, non-governmental organization, security, healthcare, hair dressing, housekeeping/cleaning, hospitality, trade, hotels, and technology were identified as fields in which women can be trained.

Most respondents stated during the survey that women are unable to handle hard work such as mechanics, electricians, plumbing, construction, and welding due to cultural and norms. "Our ladies wear on hijab and long dresses that impedes them from climbing up the walls and electricity posts" said one of the respondent

Challenges facing Business

The hindrance that stands against businesses success were: -

- Double taxation from two sides (the government side and the AS sides)
- Poor infrastructures
- Lack of business development initiatives e.g. provision of business capitals to boost small scale business.
- Lack of business skills and knowledge
- Poor road network
- Effect of COVID-19 pandemic.

OUR STRATEGIC CONTEXT

Business network meeting

The SWERC project is timely because it addresses youth challenges, with the overall goal of improving youth integration and reintegration and thus reducing their vulnerability to violent extremism.

The program takes a hybrid approach, working with both youth who have left violent extremism or criminal activity and youth who are at risk of being recruited. It takes a multifaceted approach to achieve integration across several dimensions: it works to resolve conflict-related trauma in youth and families, it increases acceptance and understanding of trauma and mental health at the family and community levels, it provides youth with better economic prospects, and it will increase community acceptance of vulnerable youth. This goal is attained through a three-pronged strategy.

- a) Increasing youth entrepreneur training, mentoring, and financial support.
- b) Scaling up a successful youth mental health program.
- c) Involving communities in dealing with collective traumas and identifying community initiatives to assist at-risk youth

During the course of this quarter, IDF-SOMALIA carried out the following activities:

- **Recruitment of business owners;** During this activity, IDF-SOMALIA chose and registered forty-five business enterprises in the Balet-Hawa District to form the SWERC Business Network; the selected beneficiaries were subjected to series of awareness sessions and dialogue forums. Throughout the quarter, IDF-SOMALIA made use of all of the consortium's resources and criteria. The following conditions were researched to determine
 - Ability of the business to employ people
 - The business should not be a startup-It should have existed for at least 2 years



Consultative meeting with the business community network in Ballet-hawa. PHOTO BY IDF-S

- The company should have at least two employees.

Hold a business networking meeting;

In order to carry out this activity, IDF-S met with the beneficiaries and held a business networking meeting, during which the following agendas were discussed;

To achieve the goal of this activity, IDF-S spearheaded for the business network meeting in which the members present took the time to introduce themselves, led by the chairmanship of the IDF programs team; the chairman retaliated of the open forum where every member was allowed to tell their names and the nature of business they do, number of employees, or the potentiality of the business in the community.

The chairman summarizes by declaring the meeting open to everyone, urging women entrepreneurs present to have confidence and contribute openly without fear of intimidation. The chairman insisted that the SWERC program has created opportunities for business owners and representatives to know each other and discuss generally and find solutions on the market situation on recent changes.

OUR STRATEGIC CONTEXT

On the creation of the SWERC business network, the IDF held a detailed discussion with the business owners; after vigorous deliberation, the meeting concluded that the business network among the beneficiaries who will be involved in the ongoing SWERC program was deemed wise in order to improve the welfare and network of the beneficiary business community; additionally, the members present agreed as follows:

1. To elect business network coordinating officials, such as the chairperson and secretary, at the next meeting before the end of the month.
2. To ensure that the business details, such as the registered business name and documents, are correct.
 - Business details/nature of business
 - Type of business
 - Number of employees currently employed
 - Willingness to participate in the SWERC program



IDF-S staff leading the business consultative forum. PHOTO BY IDF-S

EXPECTATIONS AND GOAL OF THE BUSINESS NETWORK

IDF used the opportunity to inform the beneficiaries about their role in the SWERC Program whilst outlining what is expected of them, benefits and what their expectations should look like.

Mrs Batula Ibrahim Hassan, former Balet-Hawa chair lady and current business owner, has warmly welcomed and encouraged all businesses to take advantage of the unique opportunity provided by the SWERC program in order to positively impact the youth and prevent them from engaging in violent extremism, theft, rape, and other crimes.

Mr. Ahmed Abdille Ali, a local business owner expressed his joy to be part of the network while registering his appreciation to the IDF and its partners for enabling be part of the project aimed at impacting youth in our society through creation of job opportunities.

Expectations and goals

Organized a member sensitization session on youth inclusive business practices- SWERC grants and loans; this included the formation of leadership for the SWERC Project business network.

The DF-SWERC Project staff welcomed the participants and thanked them for accepting their invitation to the business network meeting at the Ulajog hotel (venue) in Ballet Hawa.

The SWERC Project Manager introduced the meeting's purpose and emphasized the SWERC project's goals, objectives, and direct and indirect beneficiaries.

The representative of the local authority asked everyone to stand with the families whose livelihoods had been harmed by the prolonged drought and who had fled their settlements in search of basic human needs. Because the participants were drawn from the business sector, he repeatedly requested that commodity prices be reduced in order to make them affordable for both host and IDP communities.

Mr. Mohamed Farah Abdi, District Humanitarian Coordinator-Beled Hawa, shared his experiences in response to drought and other natural catastrophes that

OUR STRATEGIC CONTEXT

-have been recurring for the last ten years, and he also encouraged business owners to create job opportunities for the youth, who are vulnerable to many things that destroy the society's vision and existence.

The participants were given time to choose four members of their management team, namely the chairman, vice-chairperson, secretary, and spokesperson, who will act as a bridge between the IDF/SWERC Project and other members of the business network.

The following people were chosen to lead the business network: -

- 1) Abdikadir Abdulahi diriye- Chairman
- 2) Batullo Ibrahim Hassan- Vice chair
- 3) Mohamed Hassan Diriye- Secretary
- 4) Ahmed Abdulle Ali- Spokesman.

Following extensive deliberation, the committee agreed to the following roles: -

- Coordination of the IDF/SWERC project team and other network members

- Represent the business network member in meetings with implementing partners.
- Mobilize both business network members and other community agencies in the project location to create job opportunities for skilled, experienced, and well-trained youth in the community in order to reduce youth at risk.



OUR STRATEGIC CONTEXT



Conducted a paraprofessionals training workshops

On Wednesday, June 15th, 2022, IDF-S launched a month long Mental Health Paraprofessional Training workshops, targeting students. Virtual session was organized to introduce the organization's staff, the selected 9 mental health paraprofessionals, the IDF-S training manager Mr. Ahmed Hassan, and the trainer consultant Mr. Mohamed Farhan. Following that, the mental health consultant provided training orientation by launching the platform's guideline, particularly regarding online attendance.

Mental health paraprofessionals conduct mental health sensitization sessions in local madrasas and schools.

In Balet-Hawa, the IDF-S conducted 3 mental health sensitization sessions at schools and local Madrassas, namely;

- 1) Iqra Integrated Primary School
- 2) Abubakar Orphans Primary School
- 3) Immamu-Shadimi Academy

The following psychosocial support programs were offered.

- a) Introduction of mental health
- b) Trauma and posttraumatic stress disorder
- c) How to cope trauma through activities and recreation
- d) Factors that reduce the effect of trauma
- e) Common disorders of mental health
- f) Cognitive behavior therapy

Objectives of the sensitization

- To assist individuals in changing their thinking patterns and behaviors, thus improving their quality of life.
- To eliminate the stigma associated with mental illness
- Allowing individuals to develop self-esteem by focusing on problems and working toward a solution

OUR SUCCESSES, FAILURES, MISSED OPPORTUNITIES AND LESSON LEARNED

Program Impact Considerations

- Increased the community's youths' economic productivity
 - Improved community livelihood through long-term income-generating activities.
 - Supported local entrepreneurs through the SWERC business network.
 - Jobs were created for the youth, preventing them from becoming involved in violent extremism and other criminal activities.
 - Capacity-building activities for community youths to help them recover from drug addiction while preventing others from engaging in such risky behavior.
 - CBT-trained mental health paraprofessionals on Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT).
 - The trained mental health professionals were deployed to assist the local community with mental health issues, which are a persistent problem that undermines many people's stability and health.
3. On the 30th of May, 2022, a Mental Health orientation and kick-off training was held, during which partners were updated on the intervention overview and work plan.
 4. On May 31, 2022, a communication training update from the partner on program implementation progress and a discussion about the market analysis report were held.
 5. On 8th June, 2022 IDF staff participated in a virtual Capacity building strategy development and validation workshop.
 6. Two representatives from IDF program manager and the finance officer attended a Capacity building plan and validation workshop on the 9th and 10th June, 2022 at Kismayo and later attended a meeting session with GCERF country director Ms. Hannah on 10th June, 2022 at the Kismayo airstrip.

Working within the Consortium, IDF-S has had the opportunity to attend a number of coordination, workshop, and communication meetings at the consortium and donor levels. The following meetings and engagements were attended:

- 1) The development of capacity-building strategies. Partners discussed and contributed to a number of issues, including the need for support staff in areas such as budgeting, cash management, and double accounting capacity, as well as NGO policies that need to be improved.
- 2) Communications meeting held on 14th May, 2022 with the SRs, convened by HAPPEN to share feedback on the quarterly report and shared areas of improvement on the reporting system. 14th May, 2022

We approached learning differently in 2022, primarily by reflecting on missed opportunities, the lessons we learned from them, and how they would inform future work and approaches. One of the key lessons is that there is an increasing need for us to align our work and external messaging and communicate more effectively. We need to raise our profile and distinguish ourselves.

The strength of our engagement and rootedness in communities is a clear and powerful way to achieve this. We need to invest more in highlighting this organic connection to communities led initiatives that provide evidence from lived experiences for broader impact of our deliverables with stakeholders and key partners.

We are learning that by challenging visible, invisible, and hidden power, we can make a bigger impact.

INSPIRING STORIES OF CHANGER

Abdifatah is a young man from a pastoral family and a form four leaver. He left his parents when he was five years old to attend school in the city of Beled Hawa. The young boy lived with a relative, and his parents were able to pay his education fees on a monthly basis. Abdi used to visit his parents on every holiday and return to school on the required reporting date. According to one of his classmates, Abdi used to perform well in primary and secondary school.

After finishing primary school and receiving his results, he went to his parents to show them the results. When Abdi arrived home, he was greeted warmly by his family members, led by his parents, who had learned that their son was among the top students in the school and had returned with good grades. He stayed at home for a number of days because the holidays were longer than the previous holidays.

Abdifatah used to go to a nearby mosque to pray five times a day, where he was engaged by a new friend named Ibrahim. Ibrahim was an Al-Shabab sympathizer who was in charge of recruiting young people to join Al-Shabab.

Long after their conversation with Ibrahim, Abdifatah, He enrolled in Towfiq secondary school in Mandera and completed his O-level education; however, he was unable to continue his education because he had lost his parents and livestock, thus losing his livelihood; as a result of these challenges, he decided to discontinue his studies at that level and seek employment to support himself and his two younger brothers. Nonetheless, he was unable to obtain any job opportunities.

When Ibrahim learned that Abdifatah's parent had died and that he was in desperate need of a job, he took advantage of his situation to entice him with an offer to join the Militants in exchange for a better life for him and his brother; however, he declined the offer and continued doing the manual labor that he had been doing.



*Interview with Abdifatah -SWARC project beneficiary Beled Hawa.
PHOTO BY IDF-S*

Abdifatah was chosen as one of the project's beneficiaries after many years of struggle. He stated that since joining the program, he has gained extensive knowledge and is now capable of running his own business, which he plans to expand further.

NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENT SUMMARY

- 1) 24 workshops/seminars on mental health and psychosocial support activities to raise awareness and educate the public about mental health issues. Each month, 8 training sessions were held, with a total of 9 participants reached through both virtual and physical trainings (5 male and 4 female).
- 2) 24 mental health paraprofessional virtual training workshops were held over a three-month period with the goal of building learners' capacity to gain practical strategies. This increase their knowledge and skills regarding mental health issues and, as a result reducing domestic violence.
- 3) 41 business grant bids were submitted and evaluated, with 30 of them being successful, representing 22 male-owned businesses and 8 female-owned businesses.

RESOURCING AND ACCOUNTING FOR OUR INCOME

ASSETS			0.00
Fixed Assets			0.00
Furniture and Fixtures			0.00
Total Furniture and Fixtures			0.00
Total Fixed Assets			0.00
Other Assets			0.00
Total Other Assets			0.00
Current Assets			0.00
Other Current Assets			0.00
Prepaid Expenses			0.00
Total Prepaid Expenses			0.00
Total Other Current Assets			0.00
Accounts Receivable			0.00
Allowance for Doubtful Accounts			0.00
	Payment	36,854.00	-36,854.00
	Payment	47,235.00	-84,089.00
Total Allowance for Doubtful Accounts	0.00	84,089.00	-84,089.00
Allowance for Doubtful Pledges			0.00
Total Allowance for Doubtful Pledges			0.00
Grants Receivable			0.00
	Payment	21,085.00	-21,085.00
	Payment	33,641.00	-54,726.00
	Payment	34,485.00	-89,211.00
Total Grants Receivable	0.00	89,211.00	-89,211.00
Pledges Receivable			0.00
Total Pledges Receivable			0.00
Total Accounts Receivable	0.00	173,300.00	173,300.00
Cash at bank and in hand			0.00
Undeposited Funds			0.00
	Payment	21,085.00	21,085.00
	Transfer	21,085.00	0.00
	Payment	33,641.00	33,641.00
	Transfer	33,641.00	0.00
	Payment	34,485.00	34,485.00
	Transfer	34,485.00	0.00
	Payment	36,854.00	36,854.00
	Deposit	36,854.00	0.00
	Payment	47,235.00	47,235.00
	Deposit	47,235.00	0.00
Total Undeposited Funds	173,300.00	173,300.00	0.00

Integrated Development Focus (IDF-S)

Via Khalil District Hospital

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Front Cover: Youth participating in a Cognitive Behavior Therapy (CBT) and Counselling session