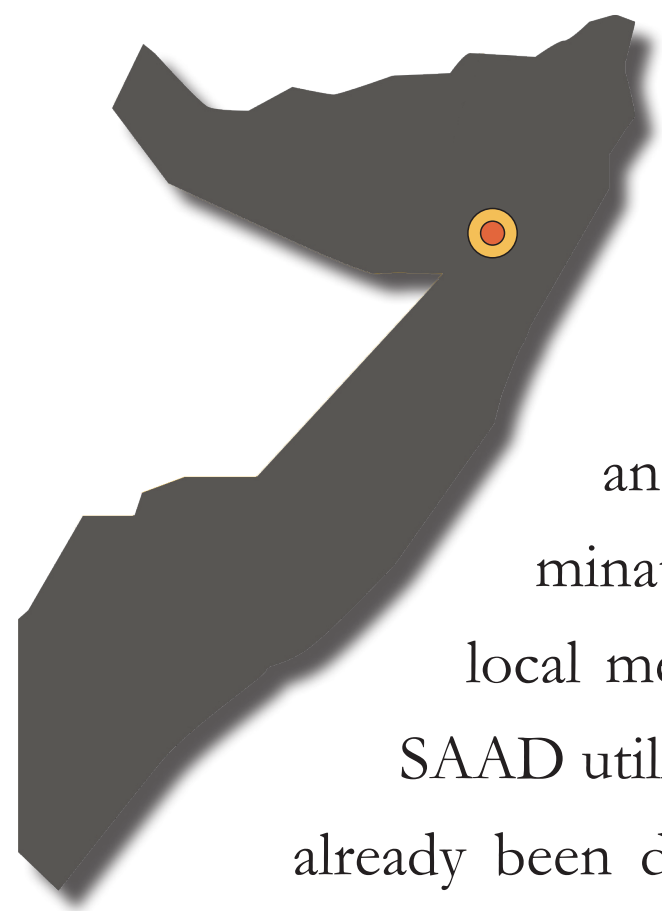


Religious leaders and health practitioners join forces



In November 2022, SAAD collaborated with MOWDAFA (Ministry of Women Development and Family Affairs) for the dissemination of FGM Messages using local media outlets in Garowe district. SAAD utilized the key FGM messages already developed by MOWDAFA and kept in their repositories.

The target audiences were IDPs and Host communities particularly parents, and those who perform these harmful traditional practices.

Joint messages in local media

The messages were presented by progressive religious leader(s) and health practitioners. The religious leader, Sheik Abdulkadir stressed on delinking FGM from sharia and how it discourages practicing such harmful acts which expose girls in to risk.

“FGM is a long-standing harmful traditional practice in the country, which has been wrongly linked to the Islamic religion, but has nothing to do with it. FGM is not an Islamic requirement, but it is a harmful cultural custom that has been wrongly promoted.”



Sheik Abdulkadir Dirie

Smart Aid and Development organization (SAAD) is an independent non-profit humanitarian local organization established in February 2015 to respond to the prolonged and increased suffering and starvation of the communities who were worst affected by the humanitarian crisis; the civil strife, locust, and famine in Puntland Somalia. SAAD is a local NGO with head office

Similarly, the health practitioner Dr Habibo focused on the adverse health consequences unleashed by the FGM on the girls. The messages also captured the importance of the FGM bill to be enacted such that the perpetrators are held accountable.

“FGM as a health problem that persists from childhood to old age, and results series adverse consequences ranging from bleeding, severe pain, and urinary tract infections to long-term obstetric and gynecological complications. It is better to abstain from FGM than to deal with its negative health consequences.”



Dr Habiba, Gynecologist, Garowe

SAADS believes that women who have greater exposure to FGM prevention messages are more likely to not to cut their girls.

in Garowe, and sub-offices in Eyl, Gardo, Bosa-so, Galkacyo, Hargeisa, Mogadishu, Kismayo, and Baidhabo.

The overall Goal of SAAD is to improve the lives of vulnerable communities, and socio-economic condition of the Somali community through humanitarian relief efforts and creation of employment generation activities by forming an ex-



Feedback from a listener

Ali Mohamed from Garowe, 38 years and father of four children, has changed his mind set and perception when he listened FGM messages transmitted by SAAD via the media outlet.

Ali told us:

“Initially, I perceived FGM as a mandatory exercise to be undergone by the girls, but later when I listened FGM messages from Radio, now I have realized that it has nothing to do with the sharia as it has no legal basis in the Islamic jurisprudence. I have also recognized the adverse effects driven by FGM including health and psychological consequences. I have decided to conduct awareness raising within my family to deter the FGM practice.”



About SAAD

cution of grassroots level participation in rural/urban community with the assistance of national and international Donors.

It's active in various areas, such as sustainable livelihoods, nutrition, WASH, education, housing and fishing.

More: www.saadsom.org