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**KAALO Aid Development
Report on
Capacity building workshop
(July 23rd -25, 2013)**

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**July 2013
GAROWE**

Project title:	<i>FGM/C Reduction through capacity Building , Awareness Raising and Advocacy in 15 villages in Garowe District of puntland state of Somalia</i>
Country:	Punt land, Somalia
Report period:	1 st August 2012 – 2014
Status for performance for expected objectives up to the end of this report period (please tick off)	Delayed: Partially delayed: ✓ As expected: Partially ahead: Ahead:
Does the progress report contain which requires a rapid response from DPA?	Yes: ✓ No: See section:

1. *Developments in the country of relevance to the implementation of the project*

2.

Introduction

Kaalo Aid and Development (KAD) are engaged in increasing knowledge and changing the attitudes and behaviors of target audiences in the area of reproductive health and other related social issues. It employs a number of strategies to make this happen. One of the major strategies is capacity building including awareness raising, the awareness raising program is largely concerned with the reinforcement and changes in community norms. It also seeks to empower people vis-à-vis their health actions and to seek social and political support for those actions.

In the past six month a number of awareness raising programs have been organized by KAD for different sectors of society identified to augment the attitude and behavioral change objectives of KAD activities. These programs have been able to win to a remarkable extent the support of many influential's in different villagers of the country.

The current capacity building program is organized as a continuous process of fostering positive health practices individually and institutionally and contributes to sustainable social change.

It is often difficult to decide ending FGM on an individual basis as social pressure and sanctions are too heavy for an individual to bear. Decisions need to be reached collectively and the support of religious leaders among others has to be sought in order to allow sustained change to happen. This capacity building program is organized for the 15 villagers of Garowe District of Nugal region. Evidence shows that different religious groups have attempted to change harmful traditional practices among their followers. Religious groups usually have extensive community-based networks and their leaders are important opinion leaders. Muslim leaders for example have made a big impact in opening up discussion about FGM in puntland state.

The Process of Organizing the capacity building Program

The process of organizing capacity building program has benefited from the support of community members through sharing information. Group of community members had the opportunity to visit Garowe town in order to gather information that will help to start-up those are selected target audiences in the regions. The visits have enabled the group to identify contact persons for activities that will be implemented in the regions. The identified contact persons in Nugal region have been instrumental in organized the workshop in collaboration with KAD

The training team of KAD has made frequent contacts through telephone, and other means with the contact persons and other individuals which the team had established working relationships with during the process of its routine training activities. These people have worked hand in hand with KAD training team until the end of the workshop. The KAD staff members have contributed in the selection of topics on which resource persons have to prepare presentations. The selected topics were carefully selected and range from the historical background of FGM to its relation with human rights. The topics were reviewed by the resource persons and gained appreciation.



Objectives of the Capacity building Workshop

The general objective of the capacity building program is to help the target audiences to support actions that are geared towards abandoning harmful traditional practices including female genital mutilation which is practiced in its severest form in the Nugal region. As the target audiences are respected by the communities in the region, the use of such credible sources, it is believed, would lead to greater results. The specific objectives of the workshop are the following.

- To increase the knowledge and understanding of the trainees on the origin and negative impact of Female Genital Mutilation on the girls and women that are subjected to the horrendous practise.*
- To change the attitude of the trainees and make them agents of the fight against FGM /C in their respective villages in order to reduce the number of*

proponents of the practice and create an antagonistic team of people that campaign against the vice.

- *To provide advocacy skills and the concomitant knowledge to the trainees to effectively influence public opinion against the practice.*

Course Content/Topics Covered During the Training

- *The topics covered in the capacity building workshop were geared towards understanding of harmful traditional practices FGM. As the target audiences were religious leaders ample time was given to discuss FGM in relation with Islam and its holy books. The workshop culminated with the development of an action plan which the participants will implement when they go back to their places. In general three broad topics have been presented and are shown below.*



- *Female Genital Mutilation and social life*
- *The health consequences of Female genital mutilation*
- *Female genital Mutilation and Islam*

Course Organization and Conduct

The awareness creation workshop was a three days workshop starting from 8:00 in the morning and ending at 12:00 in the afternoon.. The facilitator used to present recap every day before the morning training session starts.

Approaches/ Methods of the Workshop

Because FGM is an extremely sensitive subject, it is important that participants have the opportunity to share their own experiences and knowledge as much as possible. It is an effective method of learning. Thus the capacity building sessions were participatory in which the resource persons raise issues for the participants to discuss. The main approaches/methods were lectures, small group discussions, plenary or large scale discussions and group work. Moreover, there was video film showing female genital mutilation in the process. Finally, at the end of the workshop the participants were requested to develop work plan as a way forward.



Participant are watching the village's drama video about fgm/c

Participants

There were 30 community members that participated in the capacity building workshop. The religious leaders have been drawn from Nugal region. The list of names of the participants is annexed in this report. The selection involved among others Islamic leaders, and the chairman's/chairlady's of some villages of Garowe in Nugal region. Thus it is believed that the right people have been selected and will make use of the knowledge they acquired during the capacity building workshop effectively to increase the knowledge and change the attitude of the people in their localities.



Welcoming and Introductory and Opening Speeches

The welcoming and opening speeches were made by project coordinator fgm, in her welcoming speech Katra m. Haji stated that the preparation of the workshop was a joint effort of KAD in collaboration with villagers



Female Genital Mutilation and its Health Impact

The topic has been presented by male resource person who is well versed in the consequences of FGM.

He was able to win the attention and sympathy of the participants while explaining the immediate and long term consequences of FGM. The areas covered during the presentation were the following.

Health impacts

Health impacts of FGM-immediate and long term consequences

Effects of FGM in Marriage

Effects of FGM on pregnancy and child birth

Effects of FGM on labor and delivery



The facilitator guiding the workshop participants in the question and answer

Female Genital Mutilation from the Point of View of Islam

This part of the presentation was made by the facilitator Emphasized in his presentation that people almost always give religious reasons for the spread and continuation of female genital mutilation. He said since Islam is one of the major religions in the country, the areas covered during the presentation were the following

Measures of Islamic practices

The dignity of human beings

Changing the creation of Allah is forbidden



Participants in group discussion



Participant are seriously following the facilitator

Major Points Raising During the Discussions

The workshop was participatory and almost all participants have aired their concerns and ideas on various issues related to FGM. Participants shared their views in plenary, group discussions and during the time provided each day for discussion. The following are major points made during the discussion.

God has created every part of the body to maintain our lives. The act of cutting any part of the body is not only a violation of God's creation, but also affecting the reproductive system of its natural functions

The problem of FGM is not only that of women. It is the problem of the whole society where it exists. The solution therefore should be a joint effort of all sectors of society

Punishing those who are practicing FGM can not solve the problem. The solution of the problem is to raise the Capacity building of the society and educate the public of the consequences of FGM

FGM is not a religious obligation as some may think; it is simply a tradition that has been followed for years.

The religious leaders of Nugal region have been teaching the believers to avoid FGM. But the results so far obtained are not satisfactory. Several people particularly in the rural areas are practicing the severest form of FGM, although some have changed the type of FGM from its most severe form (FGM) to less severe form (Suna)

In some region people are afraid to circumcise their daughters in the localities of birth. They circumcise their daughters in a place where they will not be identified by their communities.

Garowe villager's drama Video Show for capacity building workshop

This was one of the most video produced by Garowe villages to encourage the other villages and the representatives of the outpost. The objective is to bring the attention of the participant the severity of the procedure so that they put more efforts in its eradication.

Discussions at the end of the film show indicated a mix of ideas. While the majority of the participants were aware of the consequences of FGM, they are of the view that it may take some time before it is totally abolished in the region. However, there is one important question that the film left in the minds of all participants. Given the position that Islam is against FGM and the severity of the procedures that our daughters are suffering from, should FGM be allowed to continue in Nugal region? They have recommended that the film should be seen in all communities of Nugal so that every community member will see with its own eyes the sufferings of their daughters.

Group Work

Five groups were formed for the group exercise. There were three questions that the groups had to answer. The questions were:

List all harmful traditional practices in the Nugal region

Select five harmful traditional practices that the group think should be given priority attention

While some villagers could identify up to 6 harmful traditional practices, the others have identified at least 5 harmful traditional practices. All the villagers have identified Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) as a major problem that needs urgent action. This is really an important decision since the objective of KAD is to eliminate FGM in the Nugal region. This indicates that there is fertile ground for KAD to eliminate the practice in the Nugal region, as FGM is also on the regional agenda.

Suggested Action Plan Development

As mentioned above the participants were able to select the major harmful traditional practices in the villagers of Nugal region during their group work. In order to eliminate the identified traditional practices it was found essential to develop an action plan for each region in the upcoming workshops. Thus the entire region will have an action plan with time frame, responsible persons. The action plan will also identify government sector organizations and NGOs as partners in the process of implementation of the action plan.

The action plan will intended to be binding as much as possible in the respective villages. Thus decision will be made to share the action plan with other members of the society and particularly community leaders before it is finalized. It is hoped that the action plan will be a Villager document accepted by all sectors of society. This will make implementation of the action plan easier.

Conclusions

The capacity building organized by KAD for villagers of Nugal region was the first step of the long march that KAD began with regional people and officials towards ending female genital mutilation in the Puntland state in general and Nugal region in particular. This capacity building workshop is one of the important workshop one of the many activities of the project funded by Danish people Aid (DPA)