



Somalia - Girls' Education Project



Project Overview

Country:	Somalia
Regions:	Somaliland, Puntland and Central Somalia.
Theme:	Girls' Education
Time frame:	May 2017—December 2021 , building on the original project from March 2013-March 2017
Beneficiaries:	27,146 marginalised girls
Main donor:	DFID (£13 million)

Project Brief:

This project aims to increase access to education for 27,146 of Somalia's most disadvantaged girls in remote and rural areas of Somaliland, Puntland and Galmudug

Background:

Most of the areas in this project have been heavily affected by a recent deadly drought and are highly vulnerable to climate change. Pastoralist families move during the dry season in search of water and pastures for their livestock, which results in children being out of school at key times. CARE's research suggests that up to 48% of the girls in these regions may be absent from school at the beginning of the school year due to seasonal migration, and conflict in the region further increases problems with absenteeism. The journey of a rural Somali girl through education is therefore often too short and fragmented to equip her with basic skills, and to help her to break the cycle of exclusion and poverty faced by women. Their education is often cut short in mid-adolescence; opportunities for post-primary education are non-existent in rural and remote areas, and the pathways for girls are limited by traditional gender norms. Girls are also disproportionately affected by conditions within schools, with attendance closely linked with menstruation and a lack of proper water, sanitation and hygiene facilities (WASH) in schools.

5%

Only 5% of girls are currently attending some form of post-primary education in the rural and remote areas targeted by the project

Project Summary:

CARE International's Girls' Education Project in Somalia, starting in May 2017, is focused on access to opportunities beyond primary school for marginalised girls. Currently, only 5% of rural and remote girls in the areas covered by the project attend some form of post-primary education.

This project builds on CARE's previous successes working in girls' education in Somalia, following on from a previous project for DFID focusing on Girls' Education running from 2013-2017. CARE has already supported 28,865 girls from some of the poorest, most vulnerable and marginalised households in remote and rural areas of Somalia to go to school and further their potential.

The final evaluation of the first part of the project indicated significant improvement in learning outcomes,

school practices and enrolment, including -

- **Girls' literacy scores increased by 14 percentage points, from 55.7% to 69.2%.**
- **Reading comprehension scores increased by 19 percentage points.**
- **Significant improvement in addition (17 percentage points) and subtraction scores (12 points).**
- **Girls' enrolment increased by 17 percentage points—from 57% to 74%.**
- **73% of the targeted girls aged 14 and above are enrolled, compared to 61% at the baseline.**
- **58% of schools accurately tracking attendance, compared to 0% at the baseline. Teachers and community members now following up on out of school children.**
- **A marked shift in support by religious leaders for girls' education.**

Building on these successes, and the learning from working closely with a variety of community stakeholders, the second phase of project will aim to increase access to opportunities for marginalised girls in a number of ways. Firstly, it is crucial to work with local communities, schools and parents to increase their support for girls to stay in education. **In the context of Somalia, where a girl who reaches Grade 8 at age 16 is more likely to get married than to stay in school, we understand that including religious leaders, community leaders, and government in these conversations is also crucial.**

One of the key goals of the project is to create an enabling learning environment where girls and boys are equally supported to attend school, in a way where both girls and boys are safe from harm. Better conditions within schools, with better classrooms and WASH facilities, is a vital aspect of this. Most importantly, the project will focus on the girls themselves. By working with girls (and boys) to develop their leadership skills, the project will be supporting them to become active participants in their communities, empowering them to make decisions for themselves and for their families.

As well as increasing the support for girls to continue their education, **the project will also work to ensure that they are leaving primary school better prepared for further learning, especially focusing on their literacy and numeracy skills.** Teachers will be extensively trained on teaching

numeracy and literacy in an inclusive way, to make sure no one is left behind. Additionally, the project will also support primary teachers to improve teaching of English as a subject, as English is the language of instruction at secondary schools in Somalia. This project is pioneering the use of an **innovative mobile-based platform for students to acquire fluency in English**, enabling girls and boys to improve their skills early in their education.

Key objectives:

- **Shift traditional gender issues and religious interpretations that prevent girls' attendance and participation;**
- **Increase both attendance and retention rates for girls in primary and secondary school;**
- **Improve maths and literacy (both English and Somali) through better teaching and learning environments;**
- **Develop both girls' and boys' leadership skills and participation in class;**
- **Train and support key personnel throughout the education system to ensure sustainable change.**

Project Impact & Expected Results:

- **Providing essential assistance to a total of 27,146 girls and 27,154 boys in 150 primary schools, 55 secondary schools and two secondary boarding schools.**
- **Providing partial grants for 2,234 girls from poor families to attend post-primary school.**
- **Engaging community level stakeholders such as religious leaders, women's groups and men and boys in 207 school communities.**
- **Training and ongoing coaching of 621 teachers on improved delivery in literacy, maths and English.**
- **Ensuring 9,395 additional girls go to secondary school in the project area.**
- **Developing 9,499 girls' life skills, including leadership skills, financial literacy and business selection, as well as management of income generation activities**

About CARE International

CARE International works around the globe to save



Project Map of Region - Somalia

lives, defeat poverty and achieve social justice. We put women and girls in the centre because we know that we cannot overcome poverty until all people have equal rights and opportunities.

CARE currently works in 79 poor and developing countries, helping millions of the world's poorest people find routes out of poverty. We are there to provide life-saving assistance when disaster strikes, and to help people rebuild their lives afterwards. And we are there to work alongside poor people and communities on long-term programmes to deliver lasting change. Our programmes and our policy work to tackle the underlying causes of poverty so that people can become self-sufficient. We place special focus on empowering women and girls because, equipped with the proper resources, women have the power to lift whole families and communities out of poverty.

CARE Insights:

insights.careinternational.org.uk

About CARE Somalia

CARE has been providing emergency relief and lifesaving assistance to the Somali people since 1981. Our main programme activities since then have included projects in water and sanitation, sustainable pastoralist activities, civil society development, small-scale enterprise development, and education. We work in partnership with Somali and international aid agencies, civil society leaders and local authorities.

CARE Somalia is currently operational across all areas of Somalia and Somaliland.

Contact Us

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