

SOMALIA START READY & ARC REPLICA DROUGHT RESPONSE

SUMMARY EVALUATION REPORT

CONTEXT

In late 2022, the Famine Review Committee identified a risk of famine for several population groups in the Bay region of Somalia. The African Risk Capacity (ARC) Replica funds were consequently released in March 2023 when pre-agreed thresholds indicated rainfall deficits, drought, and worsening food insecurity. In total, **3.38 million USD** was released from ARC Replica, and was supplemented with **891,800 USD** from Start Ready.

The project targeted crisis-affected people in Baidoa and Burhakaba districts with cash assistance to address drought-induced food insecurity. The project reached 51,318 people between April - July 2023, with each recipient household receiving three monthly transfers of 120 USD through mobile money.

BAIDOA AND BURHAKABA DISTRICTS

Baidoa and Burhakaba districts are in the Bay region in Southern Somalia. Both districts have experienced periodic crises for over ten years because of the impacts of five drought cycles, displacement, and insecurity. In April 2023, the Bay region was the most affected by food insecurity and malnutrition in Somalia; an expected 90% of the population was estimated to face acute food insecurity from April to June 2023, and 98% of children under five suffered from acute malnutrition. At the same time, the Bay region also received displaced people at the highest rate of any part of the country due to the increasing effects of drought in the surrounding areas.

PROGRAMME EVALUATION OBJECTIVES

The objectives were three-fold:

- 1) To assess how interventions improved household food security and livelihoods for those it reached and under what circumstances this may have occurred.
- 2) The value of season-based action for food insecurity and what's worked well and less well.
- 3) Mapping the current Disaster Risk Financing (DRF) system in Somalia.



EVALUATION APPROACH AND DATA COLLECTION

- ▶ Qualitative, theory-based approach that uses a success case method to identify how outcomes are realised.
- ▶ Review of baseline and endline surveys from implementing organisations and additional household surveys (with 356 project participants).
- ▶ Key informant interviews with community members and local leaders, government institutions and UN agencies, and implementing agencies.
- ▶ 5 x Focus group discussions with project participants.

3. KEY INFORMATION

AGENCIES AND DISTRICTS

BAIDOA AND BURHAKABA DISTRICTS:

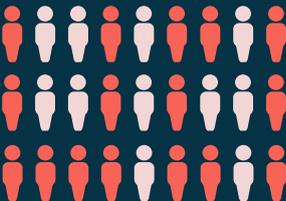
Gargaar Relief and Development Organization (GREDO)
 OXFAM
 Save the Children
 Save Somali Women and Children (SSWC)

BURHAKABA DISTRICT ONLY:

Peace Action Society Organisation for Somalia (PASOS)
 World Vision.

OCTOBER 2022 - JANUARY 2023



PEOPLE REACHED 
51,318

TOTAL AWARDED: FROM ARC REPLICA

3.38M USD

 THREE MONTHLY CASH TRANSFERS OF
120 USD

 TOTAL AWARDED: THROUGH START READY
891,800 USD

FINDINGS

IMPACT

- ▶ Most respondents found the cash assistance very helpful (**75%**). Most respondents mentioned that they ate more and increased the number of meals or types of food they ate. A significant number of respondents said the assistance helped them buy different things (e.g., household items), meet their basic needs, repay debts, and invest in other livelihood activities..
- ▶ Food Consumption score improved with a reduction of households in the poor category (27% difference from baseline) and Household hunger scores improved from baseline with a 41% difference in people reporting little or no Hunger. No households reported severe hunger at endline/PDM, a change of 24% from baseline. Nevertheless, there are still strong pockets of Food Consumption Scores being borderline as the influx of internally displaced people increased the need for assistance.
- ▶ Cash assistance was provided during the lean season (**72%**), immediately after the lean season (**17%**), and after the lean season (**11%**). The transfers were generally timely (**78%**), though **17%** of respondents felt that the transfers could have come earlier, and **4%** thought it could have been later. This suggests that there are opportunities to work with affected populations to identify even earlier windows of action to mitigate against the impact of drought.

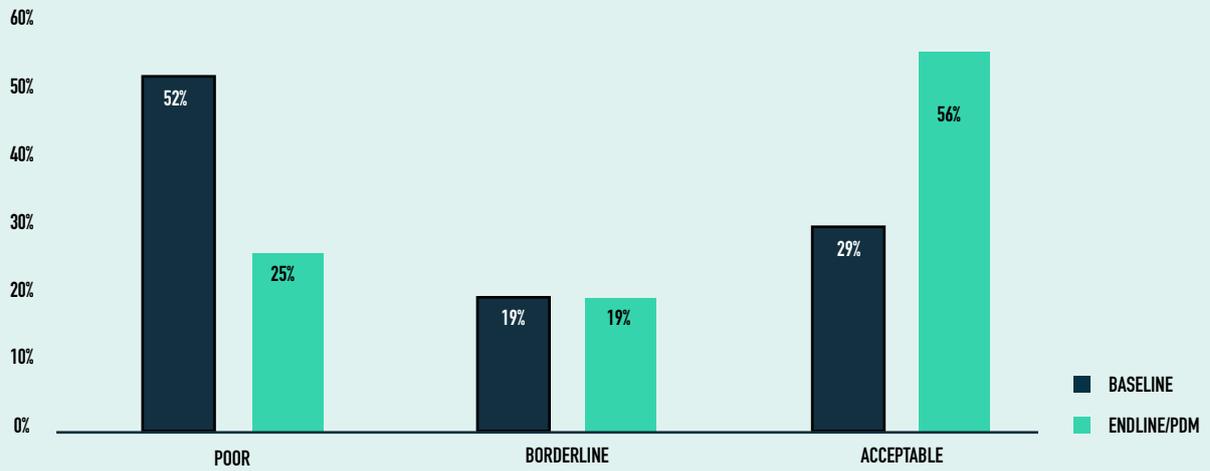
ENABLING FACTORS FOR POSITIVE OUTCOMES

- ▶ The implementing agencies' agility to implement cash and voucher assistance ('CVA') in a rapid manner.
- ▶ The implementing agencies' pre-existing / pre-arranged agreements with financial service providers
- ▶ The use of key context specific elements in the program design.
- ▶ Communities' acceptance of the modality, the delivery mechanism, and the program approach.
- ▶ The flexibility of multi-purpose cash transfers allowed for participants to have agency over how they use the cash they received to meet their diverse needs.

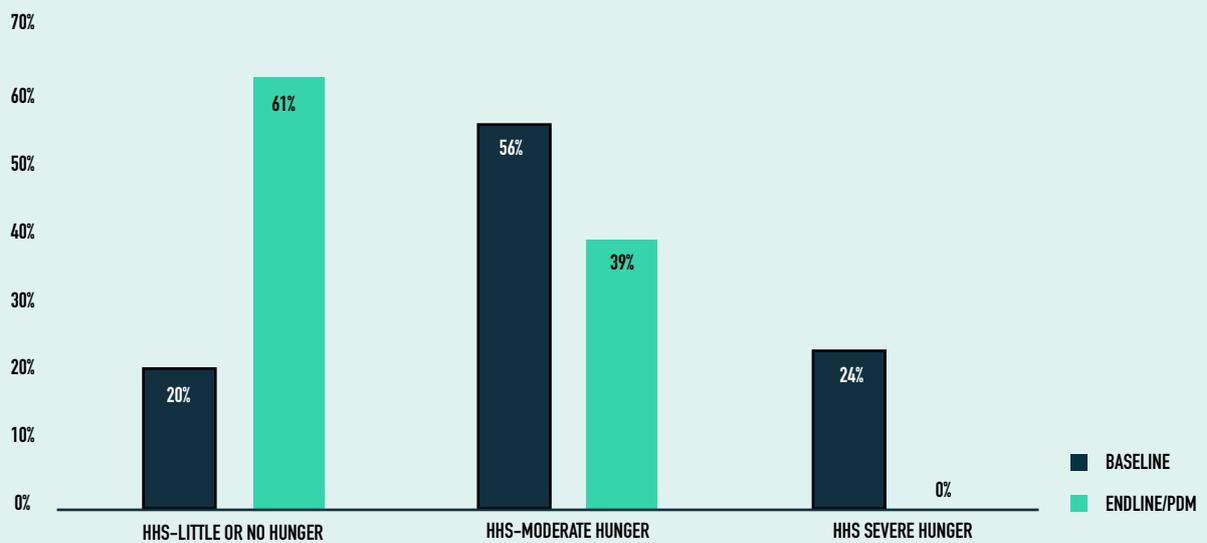
PROCESS

- ▶ Implementing agencies were able to implement in a short period of time and work at scale.
- ▶ By leveraging local coordination and feedback mechanisms, stakeholders felt that the programme appropriately targeted highly vulnerable districts already experiencing high levels of food insecurity and depletion of livelihood assets.
- ▶ The participant selection process was perceived as fair and appropriate, and the selected participants met the criteria.
- ▶ Cash assistance was the preferred assistance.

FOOD CONSUMPTION SCORES: BASELINE VS ENDLINE/PDM



HOUSEHOLD HUNGER SCORES: BASELINE VS ENDLINE/PDM



SUCCESSFUL CASE STUDY 1: ABDI MOHAMED

Abdi Mohamed, a father of four from the Bay region, saw his hopes shattered as consecutive rains failed, destroying his crops. Through ARC Replica and Start Ready, Save Somali Women and Children (SSWC) and Save the Children provided immediate relief with three monthly transfers of 120 USD, allowing Abdi to address his family's pressing needs. With the cash transfer, he purchased two dairy goats to diversify his livelihood, which has enabled him to improve his family's conditions. Abdi indicated that he earns \$2 for the milk he sells on a daily basis. He also indicated that in 1 year's time he will have 6 goats and through successful reproduction, this will potentially give him long-term livelihood sustainability.

The positive impact on Abdi's family is evident in their improved wellbeing, access to food and other necessities, as well as resilience in the form of diversified livelihood. Finally, Abdi recommended that in addition to cash assistance, people should be supported to purchase and maintain livestock – the traditional source of livelihood – since most of the internally displaced peoples were initially nomadic households whose livestock were affected by recurrent droughts. He also requested fodder for his livestock during the dry season so that droughts will not destroy it again.

FACTORS FOR SUCCESS:

TIMELY AND ADEQUATE INTERVENTION

The timely provision of 120 USD cash assistance was adequate to meet Abdi's immediate needs, contributing to the success of the intervention. However, Abdi's ability to meet his family's needs and invest in alternative livelihood was only possible because of his small household; 120 USD may not be adequate to meet the immediate and long-term needs of larger households.

LIVELIHOOD DIVERSIFICATION

Abdi's decision to use part of the cash assistance to purchase goats and subsequently expand his livestock presents an opportunity to explore interventions that enable longer-term resilience against climate shocks.

FLEXIBILITY OF SUPPORT

The unconditional, multi-purpose nature of the cash transfer allowed Abdi to address the most pressing needs, including purchasing food, clothes, and investing in livestock.

COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT

The intervention empowered Abdi to make decisions that not only met immediate needs but also contributed to his long-term livelihood.

LEAST SUCCESSFUL CASE STUDY 2: FADUMO MOHAMED

Fadumo Abukar Mohamed is a 36 year-old mother of 4 children, 2 boys and 2 girls. She is among vulnerable internally displaced persons now living in Baidoa. Before she fled to Baidoa town from her home in Waajid district, she used to cultivate farms with sorghum, maize and beans with her husband. She reached the IDP camp in December 2022 and built a makeshift shelter with her children. She received three monthly cash transfers, but it was not enough for her family. She tried to get casual labour job, but she faced difficulty since she was new to the area. Although the cash transfers have provided some immediate relief and assistance, it was not adequate to cover their livelihood needs. Fadumo has consequently requested to be supported in work/livelihood to support her large household's needs.

UNMET LIVELIHOOD AND HOUSEHOLD NEEDS

Despite receiving three months of cash assistance, Fadumo emphasised that this was not sufficient to cover her whole household's needs, and without livelihood support, the support was not adequate. The inadequacy of financial aid left her struggling to meet ongoing household requirements.

MISSED EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

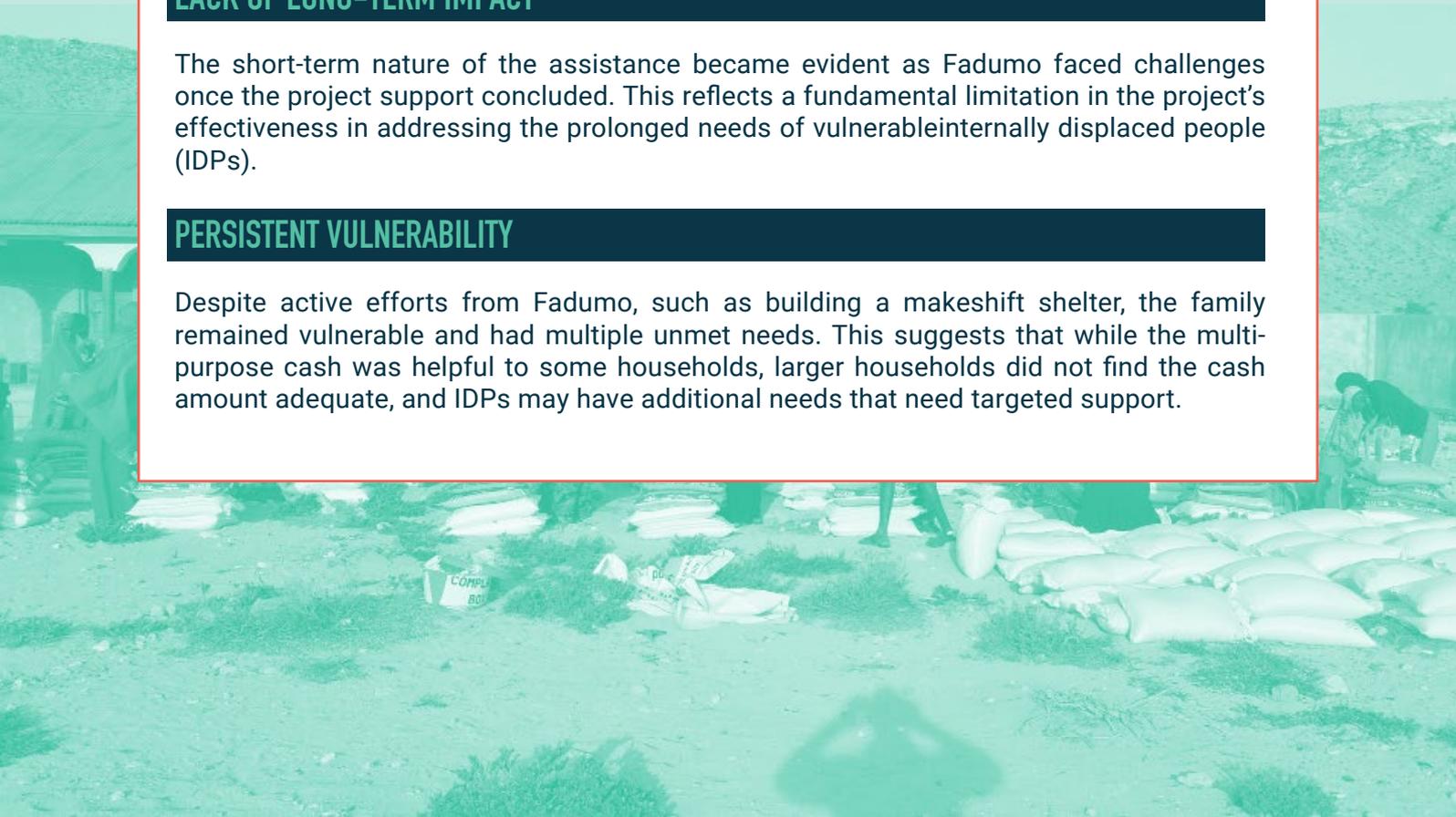
Fadumo and her aged husband failed to secure a casual labour job, indicating a missed opportunity for them to contribute to their family's income. The lack of sustainable employment options suggests an opportunity for the project to consider ways of empowering participants economically beyond the immediate relief phase.

LACK OF LONG-TERM IMPACT

The short-term nature of the assistance became evident as Fadumo faced challenges once the project support concluded. This reflects a fundamental limitation in the project's effectiveness in addressing the prolonged needs of vulnerable internally displaced people (IDPs).

PERSISTENT VULNERABILITY

Despite active efforts from Fadumo, such as building a makeshift shelter, the family remained vulnerable and had multiple unmet needs. This suggests that while the multi-purpose cash was helpful to some households, larger households did not find the cash amount adequate, and IDPs may have additional needs that need targeted support.



PROJECT-LEVEL GAPS AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR IMPROVEMENT

- ▶ On average, only **44%** of the participants knew about the feedback mechanisms, and **56%** did not. Although there was some variation between the NGOs, it is necessary that all implementing agencies prioritise community awareness and accessibility of feedback mechanisms to ensure accountability.
- ▶ There is opportunity to increase consistent adoption of good practice in Cash and Voucher Assistance (CVA) programmes – for example, the CALP programme quality toolkit. This includes protection concerns, consistent deployment of needs assessment, using non-food security indicators for multi-purpose cash transfers.
- ▶ Communication strategies could be improved to better manage expectations and provide transparent information to recipients about the programme's duration, scope, and objectives.
- ▶ Interventions should consider holistic needs of affected populations. Respondents particularly highlighted the need for assistance related to health, access to water, and precarious livelihood outcomes.

SOMALIA'S DRF SYSTEM GAPS AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR IMPROVEMENT

- ▶ DRF considerations are included in four national policies and in the mandates of different government institutions, including the Federal Ministry of Planning, Investment & Economic Development, Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs and Disaster Management, Somali Disaster Risk Management Agency, Somaliland National Disaster Preparedness and Food Security Authority.
- ▶ While there are a range of actors working in DRF in Somalia ranging from international NGOs, local NGOs, UN agencies, and other entities (World Bank, ADB, IGAD Climate Predictions and Applications Centre, Famine Early Warning Systems Network), stakeholders felt the DRF landscape is fragmented and nascent in Somalia.
- ▶ There is opportunity to develop a DRF strategy for greater coordination between actors, and there is growing interest in establishing DRF clusters and a platform to discuss DRF challenges, learnings, and opportunities.



5. RECOMMENDATIONS



- ▶ Respondents highlighted that **timeliness of response does not only include when interventions are delivered, but also what interventions are delivered**. While cash assistance is helpful in addressing immediate needs, respondents highlighted that there are nevertheless significant needs in relation to health, access to water, shelter, and longer-term livelihood and skills development for more sustained impact.
- ▶ The complexity of Somalia's context (internal displacement and conflict) means that engagement with local communities is challenging. Nevertheless, this means it is even more critical to **support implementing agencies to identify ways of meaningful consultation with communities** to address project gaps, including aligning and communicating expectations of the programme, establishing accessible feedback and safeguarding mechanisms, implementing appropriate activities and monitoring metrics for different vulnerable groups..
- ▶ As mentioned, there are **many resources and good practice already available in cash and voucher assistance (CVA) programmes and drought response**. It would be valuable to support implementing agencies to learn and adopt these strategies.
- ▶ There is opportunity to greater **leverage technology with the high digital penetration in Somalia**. Whether that is leveraging technology for improving disaster preparedness and communicating warning information, or using digital tools to monitor information and capture feedback, stakeholders felt this could be further explored.

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Programme evaluation conducted by Caravans of Development

ACTED ACTION AGAINST HUNGER UK ACTIONAID AFPDE ASBL (ASSOCIATION DES FEMMES POUR LA PROMOTION ET LE DÉVELOPPEMENT ENDOGÈNE) AGE INTERNATIONAL/HELPAGE INTERNATIONAL AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION (PARC) APPUI AUX FEMMES DÉMUNIES ET ENFANTS MARGINALISÉS (AFEDÉM) ASOCIACIÓN DE SERVICIOS COMUNITARIOS DE SALUD (ASECSA) ASSOCIATION FOR GENDER AWARENESS & HUMAN EMPOWERMENT (AGAHE) AZAT FOUNDATION BRAC INTERNATIONAL BRIGHT STAR DEVELOPMENT SOCIETY BALOCHISTAN (BSDSB) CADENA CARE INTERNATIONAL UK CARITAS BANGLADESH CARITAS GOMA CARITAS INDIA CARITAS SRI LANKA CATHOLIC AGENCY FOR OVERSEAS DEVELOPMENT (CAFOD) CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES - UNITED STATES CONFERENCE OF BISHOPS CESVI CHRISTIAN AID COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION (CDF) COMMUNITY WORLD SERVICE ASIA CONCERN WORLDWIDE (UK) CORDAID DEUTSCHE WELTHUNGERHILFE E.V. DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION FOR COMMUNITY DOABA FOUNDATION DOCTORS OF THE WORLD DORCAS AID INTERNATIONAL EHD EHSAR FOUNDATION ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION SOCIETY (EPS) FARMERS DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION GOAL HEALTH & NUTRITION DEVELOPMENT SOCIETY (HANDS) HELP FOUNDATION HUMANITY & INCLUSION UK (HANDICAP INTERNATIONAL) INITIATIVE FOR DEVELOPMENT AND EMPOWERMENT AXIS (IDEA) ISLAMIC RELIEF LAAR HUMANITARIAN AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME (LHDP) LASOONA MANZIL ORGANIZATION BALOCHISTAN MECHANISM FOR RATIONAL CHANGE (MRC) MEDAIR MERCY CORPS MIDEFEHOPS ASBL MUSLIM AID MUSLIM HANDS MUZAFFARABAD POVERTY ALLEVIATION PROGRAMME NARI DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION (NDO) NATIONAL INTEGRATED DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION (NIDA-PAKISTAN) NORTH-EAST AFFECTED AREA DEVELOPMENT SOCIETY (NEADS) NATIONAL NETWORK OF LOCAL PHILANTHROPY DEVELOPMENT OXFAM GB PACIFIC ISLANDS ASSOCIATION OF NON GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS (PIANGO) PARTICIPATORY RURAL DEVELOPMENT SOCIETY (PRDS) PEOPLE IN NEED (PIN) PLAN INTERNATIONAL PRO-VIDA QATAR CHARITY RELIEF INTERNATIONAL RURAL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT SOCIETY (RCDS) RURAL DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION (RDF) RURAL DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION BUNER RURAL EMPOWERMENT AND INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT (REPID) SAMI FOUNDATION SANGTANI WOMEN RURAL DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION (SWRDO) SAVE THE CHILDREN UK SOCIETY FOR MOBILIZATION ADVOCACY AND JUSTICE (SMAAJ) SOLIDARITÉS INTERNATIONALE SUKAAR FOUNDATION THARPARKAR SUSTAINABLE ENVIRONMENT AND ECOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENT SOCIETY (SEEDS) TEARFUND THE ALLIANCE FOR INTERNATIONAL MEDICAL ACTION (ALIMA) TRÓCAIRE VEER DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION WAR CHILD WELFARE ASSOCIATION JARED WORLD JEWISH RELIEF WORLD VISION YOUTH ORGANIZATION YUGANTER GARGAAR RELIEF AND DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION - GREDO SAVE SOMALI WOMEN AND CHILDREN TAAKULO SOMALI COMMUNITY KAALO AID & DEVELOPMENT WAJIR SOUTH DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION CENTRE FOR PEACE AND DEMOCRACY HORN OF AFRICA VOLUNTARY YOUTH COMMITTEE (HAVOYOCO) SOCIAL-LIFE & AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION STEWARD WOMEN MOTHER AND CHILDREN DEVELOPMENT AID (MACDA) TITI FOUNDATION HOPE RESTORATION SOUTH SUDAN (HRSS) WOMEN FOR CHANGE