

Key issues and Highlighted Approaches at a Glance

Somalia

1



Human Capital



KEY ISSUES

- Large gender gaps in school attendance.
- Challenges to girls' education (on demand and supply side):
 - cultural barriers
 - transportation
 - financial difficulties
 - lack of female teachers, among others
- Prevailing social patriarchal norms that restrict gender roles for adolescent girls.
- Lack of market-relevant skills, hindering girls transition to the labor market.
- Poor reproductive health outcomes for women and girls.



SUGGESTIONS FOR APPLICATION IN SOMALIA

- Linking **conditional cash transfers, scholarships, or cash vouchers** to families to incentivize the enrollment of girls such as in the [Sahel Women Empowerment and Demographic Dividend \(SWEDD\) in Niger Project](#), conditional cash transfers program in [Malawi](#) and [Nigeria Partnership for Education Project \(NIPEP\)](#)
- Gender Sensitive School **Case-Management systems** to identify girls at risk of dropping out and enhance student wellbeing and safety such as in the [Girls' Education and Women's Empowerment and Livelihood Project \(GEWEL\)](#)
- Making schools **safe and conducive** for learning through i) implementing **school-wide interventions** led by teachers, students, and school-affiliated community members such as Uganda [good school toolkit](#) or [GEWEL project's](#) school-wide interventions ii) putting in place **adolescent girls safe spaces** which were tested in [Uganda, Sierra Leone and South Sudan](#) iii) continuing to prioritize **WASH** interventions
- Developing **trainings** which also target the demand side barriers girls face, including financial constraints, social norm constraints, as childcare constraints that impede women from pursuing trainings, some examples are [Liberia Economic Empowerment of Adolescent Girls and Young Women \(EPAG\)](#) project and World [Bank's Benin Youth Employment Project](#)
- Building on skills trainings, prioritizing **girls' participation in STEM** programs such as in [Tanzania, Nigeria and Rwanda](#)
- **Engaging the broader community**, including **men and male youth**, in targeted norm interventions as a powerful strategy to shift social norms such as [Liberia Women Empowerment Project's](#) community-based model or expanding [CHOICES program](#), which was tested in Somalia
- Improving **sexual and reproductive health (SRH)** outcomes through **couples- and community-based interventions** such as [Bandeberho, or "role model," couples' project](#) in Rwanda, which provided small group sessions of critical reflection and dialogue or **innovative interventions** such **sports pedagogy program as tested in Tanzania**

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Economic Opportunities



KEY ISSUES

- Women entrepreneurs face barriers due to **norms and perceptions of women's roles** in households and society that constrain their access to productive opportunities
- Somali women entrepreneurs often face barriers to **accessing finance and capital**.



SUGGESTIONS FOR APPLICATION IN SOMALIA

- Address women's weaker **access to business networks** and Connect women to finance and enabling services through a **group based model** such as the [Nigeria for Women Project](#) Women's Affinity Groups (WAGs) which serve as an avenue for socialization and a **platform for equipping women with skills, access to information and finance**.
- Combine **livelihoods interventions with GBV prevention and response** programming such as the [DRC GBV Prevention and Response Project](#) which includes livelihoods activities as a way of addressing potential drivers of GBV. It utilized a **market-led approach to selection of profitable and sustainable livelihood activities**, provided vocational, life skills, business skills, and literacy training, and formed **Village Savings and Loan Associations**
- Provide **Personal Initiative Training** to support women entrepreneurs as in [Togo](#), where female microenterprise owners improved profits with Personal Initiative training

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Voice and Agency



KEY ISSUES

- **Gender-based violence (GBV)** is a pervasive issue faced by women and girls in Somalia.
- Women's limited roles in public decision-making forums and lower rates of political participation than men in Somalia are indicative of social norms constraints they face.
- Women's roles and household responsibilities hinder women's participation in political and public decision-making forums.



SUGGESTIONS FOR APPLICATION IN SOMALIA

- Improving access to and quality of **multisectoral GBV response** services, using the health sector as an entry point as in Kenya the [Covid-19 Health Emergency Response Project](#), The [DRC GBV Prevention and Response Project \(P166763\)](#) and increasing services for displaced population as in the [Health and Gender Support Project for Cox's Bazar District](#)
- Incorporating **evidence-based models to address mental health** and trauma, Narrative Exposure Therapy (NET) that was tested as part of the [Great Lakes Emergency Sexual and Gender Based Violence and Women's Health Project](#)
- Integration of **GBV prevention** programming to challenge harmful attitudes and increase uptake of GBV response services
- Focusing on **behaviour change and addressing social norms**, involving women, men, and boys as in the Somalia [Communities Care program](#), [DRC GBV Prevention and Response Project](#) with SASA! and Engaging Men in Accountable Practice (EMAP) programming and [Bandeberheo, or "role model," couples' project](#)
- Advancing **legal protections** that protect women and girls and enable them to live their lives free from violence through DPFs such as in [São Tomé and Príncipe](#) and [Benin](#)
- **Address social norms and constraints for women in FCV contexts** by applying Bank experience on **community-led rural infrastructure projects** that empower communities and address social norms constraints for women such as The Afghanistan National Solidarity Program (NSP)
- Consider addressing childcare through **community-based models** or other approaches to improve employment and financial outcomes, such as a [Burkina Faso public works program](#)

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Climate Change



KEY ISSUES

- Women and girls are disproportionately affected by climate shocks and stresses



SUGGESTIONS FOR APPLICATION IN SOMALIA

- Improve inclusion of women as important agents of **climate leadership, adaptation,** and mitigation, such as in [Kenya](#) and the [Philippines](#)
- Include **traditionally marginalized groups in climate action**, as they have some of the world's richest traditional knowledge and practices that they have been using to build the resilience of their communities to climate shocks, as in the [DRC](#), [Ghana](#), and [South Asia](#)