

Executive summary

In this submission, Kaalo¹ NGO provides information under sections A, B, C and D as stipulated in the *General Guidelines for the Preparatio of Information under the Universal Periodic Review*:

- In Section A, the background of Gender Based Violence in Puntland
- Section B highlights The potential Gender Based Violecne in Puntland and the kind survivors meets the GBV
- In section C, Child street
- In section D, Kaalo NGO makes a number of recommendations for action by the Interanational community and local community.

Kaalo NGO submission to the UN Universal Periodic Review on Oct/2010

A. The background of Gender Based Violence in Puntland

Since the start of the civil unrest, Somalia remained in a state of anarchy, lawlessness and political instability due to the lack of a central government. Consequently, the whole nation went under profound devastation that has caused havoc, immense suffering and social disruption, economic and political disarray that had engulfed all aspects human rights. All these have negatively affected and placed extraordinary strains on the status of women in the country causing profound changes at the family level. Puntland's traditional family structures, economic and social safety-net and support systems have been

¹ KAALO is an autonomous, voluntary, non-governmental organization, whose sole aim is to alleviate the suffering of the needy people without any distinction of race, nationality, tribe religion or political opinions.

The organization was established 1991 in Garowe to help regions marginalized by war and their famine affected population. The organization is currently headquartered in Garowe capital city of Puntland State of Somalia. The organization had implemented a number of relief and rehabilitation projects with different regional partners during its existence as an N.G.O and has been regularly developing in both operational areas and program implementation, KAALO always incorporates the lessons learned from the past with its future plans and strategies.

weakened almost beyond reparation. Thus poverty and marginalization have affected deeply women and the vulnerable groups more than the men. That is why; most internally displaced people (IDPs) are women, the absolute majority of who are widows with children, this is became the cause of the Gender Based Violence (GBV) in Puntland State of Somalia the potential forms of GBV exists in the regions will be stated on the following pages.

B. The potential Gender Based Violence in Puntland and the kind survivors meets the GBV

Although GBV incident are so more at the same time different training workshops implemented by Kaalo NGO the participants declared the most potential cases includes as follows:

GBV is physical, mental, or social abuse (including sexual violence) that is attempted or threatened, with some type of force (such as violence, threats, coercion, manipulation, deception, cultural expectations, weapons, or economic circumstances) and is directed against a person because of his or her gender or gender roles and expectations in a society or culture. In circumstances of GBV, a person has no choice to refuse or pursue other options without severe social, physical, or psychological consequences. Forms of GBV include sexual violence, sexual abuse, sexual harassment, sexual exploitation, early or forced marriage, discrimination, denial (such as education, food, freedom), and female genital mutilation. Although they can exist at the same time the following are the potential one.

Rape An act of non-consensual sexual intercourse. Any penetration (by introducing body parts or objects) is considered rape, and may include: Gang rape, if there is more than one assailant, and male rape, sometimes known as sodomy. it is one most increasing GVB incidents against women in Puntland, this happens regularly.

Sexual exploitation includes sexual coercion and manipulation by a person in a position of power who uses that power to force a vulnerable person to engage in sexual acts. These acts may include: forced undressing, and or nakedness, coerced marriage, forced childbearing, engagement in pornography or prostitution, trafficking, sexual extortion for the granting of

goods, services, assistance benefits, and sexual slavery. The exploitation may involve the provision of assistance in exchange for sexual acts. In these situations, the survivor may believe that she/he has no other option to comply (perhaps to protect her family, to receive goods or services, etc) so that even if consent is given, it is manipulated or coerced.

Sexual Harassment: Any unwelcome sexual advance, request for sexual favour, verbal or physical conduct or gesture of a sexual nature, or any other behaviour of a sexual nature that might reasonably be expected or be perceived to cause offence or humiliation to another. Sexual harassment may include a one-off incident or a series of incidents. It may be deliberate, unsolicited and coercive. Both women and men can be the victim or offender.

Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) Female genital mutilation/cutting (FGM/FGC) comprises all procedures involving partial or total removal of the external female genitalia or the injury of the female genital organs whether for cultural or other non-therapeutic reasons. It is considered as a deep rooted culture based phenomenon though the practice has detrimental health hazards to the lives of our girls and women which ultimately affects the wellbeing of the family.

Domestic violence: Violence taking place within the household or within the family. Domestic violence includes both physical and psychological abuses. Domestic violence may take many forms, examples include: beatings, murder or threats to life, severe verbal abuse and child abuse.

C. Street children

Most of the street children are on the streets due to lack of primary caregiver. Some of them lost one or both of their parents. Poverty in the family is another prime factor that caused the children to come to street seeking for better life and even play role the family daily bread support. The natural disaster, prolonged drought and urbanization cause the children to flee the rural areas to the towns.

These children do not have sympathy and consideration from the community. They are beaten, raped and discriminated. They lack affection and care, security, shelter, nutrition, education, health, etc.

KAALO staff has made visits to street children main sites where they spend most of their time. They witnessed very desperate, harsh and risk condition of the

street children in Bosasso, Galkaio and Garowe. They sleep dangerous and unhealthy places.

Poverty was cited as the main cause for children to live and work on the street. Due to civil war some of them lost one or both parents. Other reasons included abandonment, running away from home, disobedience, abuse and neglect, sickness, divorce, displacement or economic migration. The children don't know the negative effect of the substance, no care givers, no guidance. Others also have no caregivers and don't know where to seek assistance except garbage dumping sites

D. Kaalo NGO makes a number of recommendations for action by the Government, Interanational community and local community.

- To have good cooperatin and continious communication among GBV worksing groups and have one strategy to reduce and eliminate GBV harms and effects is very important .
- The containment lies that the perpetrator imposes punishment.
- To implement more training workshop targeting the reduction and elimination of the rape cases through the religious leader and elders.
- To fund and implement compulsory training programmes for officials – including police, lawyers, judges and medical personnel, social workers, immigration officials and teachers – in how to identify cases of violence against women and girls both in the home and the community, how to deal with victims and ensure the safety of survivors, and how to effectively collect, safeguard, consider and present evidence.
- To ensure that all police officers and other members of the security forces are trained in and follow at all times the provisions of the good ethical and Code of Conduct for Law Enforcement Officials.
- To prioritise actions aimed at detecting exploitation of children.
- To give great consideration to the children with problems of development. Avoid discriminating and degrading them. Don't neglect that they need what the other children without disability need.
- Mass community awareness campaign is also important to create safe environment at home as we created at school