Candle of Hope Foundation
ABOUT US

Candle of Hope Foundation (COHF) is an organization registered in Kenya and Somaliland which is determined to promote empowerment, sustainability and resilience by addressing the most pertinent issues affecting the vulnerable members of the communities.

What we do

COHF promotes initiatives in various sectors including Health and Nutrition, Education, Livelihood, Governance (Peace Building, Women and Youth Empowerment) and Inclusive Initiatives targeting the Disabled persons.

Our Mandate

To serve communities in East Africa/Horn of Africa and promote good governance, peace initiatives and access to basic social services for all (with particular focus on vulnerable groups- women, youths, elderly and the disabled).

OUR MISSION

To create inclusive communities that can drive their development agenda through participatory, transformative and innovative approaches.

OUR VISION

To be the lead organization to promote community driven development initiatives that enhance empowerment, sustainability and resilience.

OUR VALUES

- Respect for humanity, cultural diversity and sensitivity,
- Integrity
- Transparency & Accountability
- Democracy
- Gender Equality
- Inclusivity and Equity
Candle of Hope Foundation (COHF) has been operational in Somaliland and Kenya since 2016 implementing humanitarian and development initiatives through community-initiated programs that enhance empowerment, sustainability and resilience. COHF promotes initiatives in various sectors including Health and Nutrition, Education, Livelihoods, Governance (Peace Building, women and Youth Empowerment) and Inclusive Initiatives targeting people with disabilities.

COHF has its main offices in Nairobi (Kenya), and Hargeisa (Somaliland). COHF also has a well-developed management structure that consists of a Board of Directors, Senior Management Team (SMT) and Executive Director who provide overall leadership and oversight. Additionally, the organization has key program staff, support and operational personnel who are field based. They are directly engaged in effective implementation of programs/projects, coordination and liaising with relevant stakeholders under the leadership of Program Director.

COHF takes a participatory approach to project implementation. We work with communities to identify core needs and seek ways and means of solving the issues identified. We are committed to meeting international standards of quality and accountability in all our activities. All programs are geared towards benefiting the target community in the long run by abiding with the principle of Do no Harm without hampering progress none the less. The organization has invested in policies as a guide for institutional operations, in specific with regards to our purpose, target beneficiaries, scope and what we expect to accomplish.
Our thematic areas

Anti–human trafficking programs

**Prevention** – Awareness-raise and addressing the root-cause of trafficking in persons and commercial sexual exploitation at cross borders of Kenya, Somaliland and Ethiopia.

**Protection** - Safeguarding victims’ rights and offering assistance

**Prosecution**- Cooperating with law enforcing agencies to find justice for victims

Resilience Programs

Sustainable food security and livelihoods program for marginalized communities focuses on strengthening and building on community-led solutions, enhancing coping mechanisms and mitigating the effect of climate change.

Health and Nutrition Programs

Maternal & Child Health and Nutrition programs focuses on young child feeding program and malnutrition, emergency food security and livelihoods intervention focusing on social safety nets, care for child development (CCD) and nutrition initiatives.
Governance/Gender Equality Programs

The program empowers and creates a space for women, and youth to advocate for their rights and strengthen their social organizations. This program focuses on women’s economic and political empowerment, their reproductive health rights concentrating on FGM and teenage pregnancy. In addition, the program promotes women and youth in combating violence extremism with focus on the prevention measures.

Education Programs: Access to Quality Education

This program focuses on increasing access to quality Basic Education/Alternative Education Program (AEP) for children. AEP in particular target children who miss out of formal education due to conflict related challenges (IDPs, Refugees/Returnees) or marginalized groups such as nomadic communities. Emphasis is given to promoting participation of girl child in basic education.

Cross Cutting Themes

Gender mainstreaming, Protection, Campaign and Advocacy, Research, Community Behavior Change and Communication (CBCC) and Capacity building (Communities and State Agencies).
Achieving Our Purpose

All initiatives of COHF focus on ensuring equal opportunities for the marginalized and disadvantage group through improved access to basic services and social, economic and political opportunities. As a strategy, COHF utilizes and builds on the existing local capacity, explore innovative approaches (including use of modern technology) and enhances accessibility and utilization of humanitarian and development services through advocacy and campaigns.

COHF will work with organizations, community structures, government agencies and key stakeholders in attaining its mission, vision and delivery of services to the target communities.
Our achievements

**Counter-human trafficking**

We have developed a network of stakeholders; strategic partners and government in both Kenya and Somaliland to ensure best practices and protocols are developed and disseminated at the national and local levels.

Through our prevention (awareness campaigns) initiatives, we have been able to educate children, potential victims and the lay society on human trafficking and its dangers.

On our protection and prosecution obligations, in collaboration with partners and government agencies, we have rescued children and other victims and ensured that they were safely repatriated to their countries of origin.

**Peace Building/Conflict Resolution Initiatives**

Currently we are implementing a peace building and conflict resolution project within Marsabit targeting school girls (100 girls across different schools). Some of the main activities include community engagement and sensitization. A platform on peace building and cohesion has been created where the girls in schools come together and dialogue on importance of peace building and appreciating cultural diversity and community integration.

**Building Capacity of Women and Promoting Girl Child Education**

Improved the capacity and skills in small-scale enterprises of women and youth (35 women and girls) in Isiolo and Marsabit Towns to build resilience

Empowering women and giving informed choices about available resources i.e. Huduma Centres and government affirmative action for women entrepreneurs.

Linkage and referrals for aspiring women leaders to access trainings on women leadership in partnership with Somalia Women Association Groups

Raised awareness and strengthened the capacity of the communities in Burco, Hargeysa in Somaliland (including community education committees) to manage the schools and increase enrolment of children (with emphasis on the inclusion of girls).
Emergency Response and resilience programs

We implemented a livelihood project in partnership with Food Agriculture Organization (FAO) on Cash for Work activities/ Unconditional Cash Transfers activities across 8 villages in Berbera District, Somaliland with a total of 800 Households (HHS) beneficiaries.

Between 2016 and 2017, we managed to reach 25,580 Households with relief food distributions in Northern Kenya (Garissa, Marsabit, Mandera and Nairobi), Somaliland (Togdeer region; Burco and Sheikh) and Galgaduud region in Somalia. This was through a partnership with Relief & Development Committee (RDC), Himilo Foundation, Ocean Somali Community UK, and Juba Foundation.

Livelihood/ resilience program (cash plus Fisheries) activities

We successfully completed a cash plus fisheries project in partnership with Food Agriculture Organization (FAO) across 5 villages in Berbera district. The projects have benefitted 400HHs (direct beneficiaries) with livelihood skills.

Through the project, we have increased the targeted communities’ capacities for resilience to future droughts or floods and improved their economic self-reliance. We have also enabled livelihood security, peaceful co-existence, and sustainable inclusive growth.

Promoting Access to Health services

COHF has adopted a policy of integrating HIV& Aids/FGM program in all its other programs through awareness raising and prevention concentrating on all Social groups, School children, elders and local authority. The organization sensitizes all communities living in our areas of operation to take a common stand on the issue of FGM practices.
Ongoing Activities

Livelihood/ resilience programs (cash plus Fisheries / livestock) activities

We are currently carrying out 2 projects: one for cash plus fisheries activities and the other for cash plus livestock activities all in partnership with Food Agriculture Organization (FAO) across 12 villages in Berbera district. The projects are meant to benefit 1,400 HHs (direct beneficiaries) with livelihood skills.

The overall goal of the projects is to assist the affected communities to become more resilient in the face of climate change, environmental degradation and conflict. We are therefore working with a multi-stakeholder approach, linking and building capacities of communities and other actors.

ANTI- HUMAN TRAFFICKING

We are currently implementing a project jointly with Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) on a communication strategy for tackling human trafficking along transit routes.

This communication strategy has been designed to address issues on human trafficking along the local public transport sector (commonly known as Matatu) in Nairobi and Mombasa. The Strategy will particularly target Matatu operators and young people with information to educate them on the nature and dangers of human trafficking. It also shares information on their human rights, reporting mechanisms and their roles and responsibilities.

CHILD PROTECTION

We have partnered with SOS Children’s Villages- Kenya in an emergency preparedness and response strategy project; to offer assistance to unaccompanied minors and children without parental care.

The project’s objective is Reforming child protection systems by address the needs of children without parental care by building their capacities through trainings adequate life skills, how to deal with stigma developmental damage and community reintegration.
## Organization structure and capacity

### STAFFING

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Contract Type</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Area of Expertise</th>
<th>Duty Station</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>National</td>
<td>Project Managers/ Coordinators</td>
<td>Overall management of the project and Smooth running and coordination of day to day activities and reporting of the project</td>
<td>Nairobi/ Somaliland offices</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fixed-term</td>
<td>Admin/ Finance</td>
<td>All the administrative work and Financial activities and reporting</td>
<td>Nairobi/ Somaliland Offices</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Casuals</td>
<td>Field Supervisors</td>
<td>Responsible for checking and reporting on the progress of the project.</td>
<td>Nairobi/ Somaliland offices</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Daily Laborers</td>
<td>Foremen</td>
<td>Listing the workers and workload measurement for each beneficiary.</td>
<td>Mogadishu &amp; Dadaab</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Volunteers</td>
<td>Interns project management</td>
<td>Project development, evaluation, &amp; monitoring</td>
<td>Nairobi office</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Organizational Capacity

COHF takes an all-inclusive approach to project implementation. We work with communities to identify core needs and seek ways and means of solving the issues identified. COHF is committed to meeting international standards of quality and accountability in all its activities. All programs are geared towards benefiting the target community in the long run without hampering progress none the less. COHF has a robust and dedicated team of professionals who undertake their tasks with zeal and enthusiasm aimed at setting and establishing standards that are a replica of efficiency and Success. The organization has invested in policies as a guide for institutional operations, in specific with regards to our purpose, target beneficiaries, scope and what we expect to accomplish. Our board of governors and senior management team demonstrate a commitment to the overall goals and objectives of the organization. Repetition as this has been mentioned above.

**Project design and implementation:**

- COHF adopts a participatory and consultative approach to project design and implementation. Each project commences with a thorough needs assessment. This is aimed at understanding the community needs so as to facilitate implementation of programs that address those needs as appropriate.
- The community and the local administrative structures are involved in projects designing and implementation to create an ownership of the projects for sustainability at all levels.
• During the project implementation, community mobilization and sensitization is an on-going process throughout the projects circle and the local community actively participates in the entire processes and in this way, it builds the local community’s capacity to initiate, implement, monitor, evaluate and sustain the projects.

**Monitoring and Evaluation:**

• COHF has a robust M&E framework that clearly indicates goals, outputs and outcome inbuilt in each project before the commencement of a project and assigns responsibilities to specific staffs in the organization.
• COHF uses the USAID and UN monitoring and evaluation toolkits as guideline in its M&E approach. Each project is designed to include pre-project monitoring, mid-level monitoring during the project and an end line evaluation at the end of each project.
• Each project and activity seeks to incorporate the objectives of the National Government, donors, beneficiaries, and COHF. This all-inclusive approach ensures that all parties are involved in the M&E process. Reports are generated to document the progress and are acted upon appropriately. This M&E process will evaluate project progress, resource utilization, sustainability and level of community involvement and contribution.

**Human Resources**

• COHF has heavily invested in staff training and capacity enhancement at all levels ensuring that its staffs are not only knowledgeable but also well equipped to perform and cope with arising challenges effectively as per the international standards.

**Financial Planning**

• Coupled with a robust finance policy, COHF has a tamper-proof accounting system that has checks and balances ensuring that financial decisions aren’t made by one designated officer.
• There are in-built internal controls plus a quarterly internal audit that is mandatory. COHF retains the services of an accredited auditor responsible for annual audit its books.

**Communication and Logistics**

• All COHF offices are equipped with GSM Phones and Internet access. A communication policy sets guideline for both internal and external communication. A fully-fledged department handles all logistics issues to ensure that all organization resources and needs are met according. All these are set to acceptable standards.
Appreciation to:

Government, Corporate, Private Foundation and Faith Community partners:

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
LIBERTY SHARED
EAST AFRICAN CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANISATIONS' FORUM
EACRN
Diaspora
ECOMANTRA
OSCA
OCEAN SOMALI COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION UK
Subscriptions and Membership

COHF is a member of IFRC and has signed on The Code of Conduct for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement in Disaster Relief; it takes cognizance of the rights of all people affected by disasters and supports them in reconstruction and recovery. In addition, COHF has signed up to the SPHERE standards of humanitarian work and is also subscribed to the AIDEX NETWORK, and DEVEX.

Donate

You can support our programs by donating in kind and cash.

Gifts

You can send your gifts for people affected by misfortunes, the needy and most deserving through COHF and we will ensure it reaches the rightful intended beneficiaries.

Raising Funds

You can support us in our fund-raising efforts and events. The funds raised will help thousands of needy and deserving in people.

For any donations, gifts and support in fundraising missions, please contact us throughout addresses