

**THE PERCEPTION OF THE COMMUNITY ON WOMEN  
ORGANIZATIONS IN BORAMA  
DISTRICT, SOMALILAND**

---

A Thesis

Presented to the School of  
Postgraduate Studies and Research  
Kampala International University  
Kampala, Uganda

---

In Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the Degree  
Master of Arts in Development Studies

---

By:

Indanour Abdi Nour  
MDS/40129/91/DF

September, 2011



### DECLARATION A

"This dissertation is my original work and has not been presented for a Degree or any other academic award in any University or Institution of Learning".

Indomour Abdi' Nour NANGEO

Name and Signature of Candidate

17-09-2011

Date

## DECLARATION B

"I confirm that the work reported in this dissertation was carried out by the candidate under my supervision".

*Anyama*  
ANYAMA Charles


Name and Signature of Supervisor


17 09. 2011

Date

## APPROVAL SHEET


This dissertation entitled "The perception of the community on women organization in Borama District, Somaliland " prepared and submitted by Indanour Abdi Nour in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of Master of Arts in Development Studies has been examined and approved by the panel on oral examination.

  
Dr. Mwanika Roseann  
Name and Sig. of Chairman

  
ANYAMA Charles  
Name and Sig of Supervisor

  
Dr. Aleemo Twal  
Name and Sig. of Panelist

  
Dr. Abuga Mokono Isaac  
Name and Sig. of Panelist

  
Dr. KB. Akabone  
Name and Sig. of Panelist

Date of Comprehensive Examination: \_\_\_\_\_

Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name and Sig of Director, SPGSR

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name and Sig of DVC, SPGSR

## **DEDICATION**

I dedicated this thesis to my beloved mother Baar Nour Ainan.

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

First praise is to almighty Allah who kept us in life and enabled me to accomplish this thesis successfully. Especial thanks go to my supervisor Dr Anyama for his tireless supervision, guidance and encouragement that has resulted in the production of this research work.

In general I convey my appreciation to the rest of all KIU lecturers, administration and other staffs for their warm hospitality.

My humble gratitude goes to my family and relatives among those are my mother Baar Nour Ainan, without her it would not be possible for me to accomplish this work, my father, my cousin Ahmed A/Samad Sh Omer for his assistance during data collection. And the rest of my family for their tireless moral support throughout my educational journey.

## **ABSTRACT**

In Somaliland, women organizations have been the major contributors to the social development work since the end of the civil war. They had voluntarily organized themselves to provide basic needs to the vulnerable groups in the community yet their work has been undermined by the community. Therefore this study investigated the community perception on women organizations that are carrying out social development work in Borama District. The objectives of the study were to establish a significant difference in the level of perception of urban and rural community on women organizations, and to determine the successful projects implemented by women organizations.

The study was conducted through descriptive research; data were collected between January and March 2011. From both primary and secondary sources using questionnaires and interview guides, primary data were collected from a sample of 80 respondents through purposive and simple random sampling. Cross tabulation and frequency were used to analyze data.

The study established that the majority of the respondents agreed that women organizations have played great role to contribute to the social development work since the end of the civil war. It also shows that there is a difference in perception between urban and rural communities in Borama district and that awareness raising and capacity building projects are the most successful projects implemented by women organizations. The study also recommends that Borama district community should encourage and create conducive environment for women organizations so as to carry out their developmental work effectively, Women organizations should extend their social development work to the vulnerable groups in rural areas.

## **TABLE OF CONTENTS**

DECLARATION A	II
DECLARATION B	III
APPROVAL SHEET	IV
DEDICATION	V
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	VI
ABSTRACT	VII
TABLE OF CONTENTS	VIII
LIST OF TABLES	XII
LIST OF ACRONYM	XIII

### **CHAPTER ONE**

#### **INTRODUCTION**

Background of the Study	1
Statement of the Problem	4
Objectives	5
General objectives	5
Specific objectives	6
Research Questions	6
Scope	
Geographical scope	6
Content scope	7
Time scope	7
Significance of the Study	7



## **CHAPTER TWO**

### **REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE**

Introduction	9
Theoretical framework	9
Community perception on women org	10
Gender imbalance	10
Gender as a social role	11
Gender as a social relation	11
Gender as a social practice	12
Perception of the community on women in politics	12
Peception of the community on women's economic contribution	15
Factors behind the emergence of women organizations	17
Role of women organizations in the community	18
Women organizations in peace and security	19
The economic role of Somali women	20
Women organizations and health	22
Women organizations and capacity building	22
Constraints and limitations of women organizations	23

## **CHAPTER THREE**

### **METHODOLOGY**

Introduction	25
Research Design	25
Research population	25
Sample framework	26
Sample size	26
Sampling technique	27
Sampling procedure	27
Methods	27

Instruments	27
Questionnaire	28
Interview	28
Sources of data	28
Primary data	28
Secondary data	28
Validity and reliability	29
Data analysis	29
Ethical consideration	29
Limitations of the study	30

## **CHAPTER FOUR**

### **PRESENTATION, ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSIONS OF DATA**

Introduction	32
Socio-demographic profile	32
Community perception on women organizations	35
Projects implemented by women organization	40

## **CHAPTER FIVE**

### **SUMMARY OF FINDINGS, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMNDATIONS**

Introduction	44
Level of community perception on women organizations	44
Significance difference in the level of perception	46
Successful projects implemented by women organizations	46
Conclusions	47
Recommendations	48
Local community	48

Women organizations	48
Government	49
International development partners	49
Trade unions	49
Religious groups	50
Suggestions for further studies	50
REFERENCES	51
APPENDICES	53
APPENDIX I: Questionnaires	53
APPENDIX II: Time frame	59
APPENDIX III: Budget	60
APPENDIX IV: Introductory letter	61
APPENDIX V: Researcher's CV	62

## **LIST OF TABLES**

Table 1: Sample distributions	26
Table 2: Socio-demographic profile	32
Table 3: community perception	36
Table 4: community perception on women organizations' activity	38
Table 5: Projects implemented by women organizations	32
Table 5: Duration of the living place	41

---

## **LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS**

APD	Academy for Peace and Development
CBO	Civil Based Organization
NGO	Non-Government Organization
SIHA	Strategic Initiative for women in the Horn of Africa
SPSS	Statistical Package for Social Science
SWDA	Somaliland Women Development Association
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNICEF	United Nations International Childrens' Emergency Fund

## **CHAPTER ONE**

### **INTRODUCTION**

#### **Background of the study**

Somaliland is the successor state of the former British Somaliland protectorate. It gained its independence from British colony in 1960, but at that time it did not receive any international diplomatic recognition because of their eagerness to unite their southern part which was under the Italian colony. Somaliland is bordered by Ethiopia in the south and west, Djibouti in the North West, the Gulf of Aden in the north, and, internally Puntland state of Somalia in the east. The topography of the country is varied and a vast extended coastal, a dramatic mountain escarpment up to 2000m high, and an area of high plains and in valleys.

During Barre's era 1969-1991, women held prominent positions in society. Women became colonels, ambassadors and judges and were very visible in the public sphere. After Barre was ousted from power that all changed and a very different reality bore its ugly face to the women of Somalia. Without a centralized government to protect the rights of women and prevent human rights abuses, women have repeatedly and still are the victims of discrimination, rape, murder, poverty, and all kinds of other abuses not mentioned above. The eternal optimist would hope that the situation in Somalia is getting better and better for women however that is just not the case as of right now. The situation has actually been worsening for women in Somalia as they increasingly are being victimized mimicking the days, months, and years directly following the fall of Barre when the whole country essentially fell into disarray and mass death and human rights abuses followed (Husien, 2006).

Somaliland has emerged and declared as an independent state from Somalia and restored peace and government systems to the northern regions. But the system of government adopted in Somaliland was based on clan and customary law and this mechanism of government do not allow women to be presented. Therefore, educated women with the help of feminist activists came up with the idea of forming women networks to help displaced and destitute people and to seek women's political, social, and economic rights in Somaliland (Husien, 2006).

Women organizations are group of people who made efforts, chiefly by women, that seek to improve women's lives or the lives of others. Probably the best-known women organizations are those that have engaged in political efforts to change the roles and status of women in society. Women organizations also have worked to help others, primarily through religious and charitable activities. Whether political, religious, or charitable, women organizations have sought to achieve greater social, economic, and political involvement for women. Throughout history, women have usually had fewer rights and a lower social status than men. The traditional role of wife and mother dominated, and most women's lives centered on their households. Women organizations first developed during the 1800s in the United States and Europe and then spread to other parts of the world. The first women organizations arose largely in response to the coming of modern urban and industrial society. The industrial revolution brought about great and political changes, creating upheavals in women's traditional roles and causing women to question their status and situation. This first wave of women organizations concentrated primarily on gaining voting rights for women. The second

wave of women organizations emerged during the 1960s, another period of great political and social change of the world. These contemporary women organizations have sought greater equality for women in the family, in the work place, and in political life (world Book, 2001).

Over the past few decades, Africa has probably suffered more from armed conflict than any other continent. These conflicts have eroded institutions that were providing a basis for the sustainability of African societies and undermine societal values replacing them with institutionalized violence. Women became specific targets. Rape, forced pregnancies, sexual slavery and assault have also become deliberate instruments of war. Therefore tired women from the civil wars in Africa organized themselves and formed women's organizations at different levels in order to help vulnerable groups (women and children) and to protect their human rights (Kumar, 2002).

The civil war that had broken out in Somaliland in 1980s-1990s caused large casualties including both lost of lives and materials. According to Somaliland government (2005) more than 50,000 men lost their lives during the civil war, leaving widows and orphans behind and over 300,000 people were displaced internally and externally. On the other hand it has also caused the destruction of infrastructure and social institutions, roads and other communication channels like airports and sea ports had been destroyed, schools and hospitals had been ruined and looted. In addition to that many innocent people's properties had been taken illegally, women had been particularly affected as there were no publicly funded social services available (these include: employment, healthcare, education and protection). According to Academy for Peace and Development (2004) the



civil war eliminated legal protection of human rights of women and it has affected their socio economic situation.

Traditionally, the role of women in Somaliland among the society is described as mother of her children, to be cook, laundry women nurturer and wife to her husband. That role was radically altered by the civil war; they are among the ones who have been working hard for improving the life conditions and reviving the collapsed institutions. In urban areas women have organized themselves and formed women organizations in order to solve the widespread problems in the society. The emergence of women organization in Somaliland has resulted mainly from two major factors. First, the deteriorated socio-economic conditions brought by civil war and how it affected on women. According to Kumar (2002) several factors contribute to the emergence of women's organizations the social, economic and political transformation that took place during the conflict. Secondly women had no formal role in the clan-based political process. According to Bulhan (2005) frustrated women by their exclusion from the formal political process have suggested the formation of a clan exclusively for women (*Bah Dumar*) and women's organizations to press their demands at political level.

### **Statement of the problem**

In Somaliland, women organizations are playing great role in contributing to the social development since the end of the civil war. They had voluntarily organized themselves and made contributions in order to deal with the deteriorated issues. They have taken a crucial role in improving destroyed health and educational centers. They have also helped those who were internally displaced and vulnerable groups (women, children

and disabled) by supplying food and housing materials (plastic sheets) to cover their shelters from the sun and rains. According to UNDP (2008), in Somaliland women organizations have been delivering much needed services to women, children and other vulnerable groups. They have built schools, clinics, wells and supported number of micro credit programmes for children, youth and women. It is through their services that reduced the vulnerability of the people in Borama district.

Despite the great work that women organizations have contributed to the society in Somaliland, yet their work has been undervalued culturally by the community. According to Academy for Peace and Development (2004), cultural and social factors hamper women organization in Somaliland. Culturally, women plays subservient role to men and because of their low social status, many leaders of women organizations are not in a position to interact government and international partners as equally as their male counterparts. Women in women organizations often face disapproval from male relatives who concerns that if women become involved in outside activities they would not devote adequate time to household chores.

## **Objectives**

### **General Objectives**

The general objective of this study was to present the perception of community on women organizations as well as highlighting the role and capability of women organizations so as to challenge speculations that women are weak and is less capable in involving social development.

## **Specific Objectives**

The specific objectives of the study were:

- i. To identify the level of perception of the community on women organizations.
- ii. To examine the significant difference in the level of perception of urban and rural community on women organizations.
- iii. To determine successful projects implemented by women organizations.

## **Research questions**

The study was guided by the following research questions:

- i. What is the perception of community on women organizations?
- ii. What is the level of perception of the community on women organizations?
- iii. Is there a significant difference in the level of perception of the rural and urban community on women organizations?
- iv. What are the successful projects implemented by women organizations?

## **Scope**

### **Geographical Scope**

This study was conducted in Borama city. Geographically it is located at 120 KM of west from the capital of Somaliland Hargaisa and it has sub-districts that is; Boon, Idan and Goroyo'awl. Therefore the study concentrated on theses sub-districts which make up Borama district.

---

### **Content Scope**

The study was concerned with the perception of the community on women organizations in Borama district Somaliland.

### **Time Scope**

The study was conducted in the first stage from September to November 2009 where the problem identification was done, the second stage was field visits and data collection which started January and ended March 2011. However, the overall timing of activities started from 2009 to 2011.

### **Significance of the study**

Women organization in Borama district are playing crucial role in social development process, they educate people in non-formal way of education, building capacity, and creating awareness yet their work has been undermined by the community. It is hoped that this study is useful to women organizations by informing them how they are perceived by the community so as to challenge and respond to this perception.

It is also useful for government development policy makers, international development partners by showing the perception of community on women organizations so as to change this perception and create conducive environment for them to carry their social development work successfully.

It is also useful for the researcher to fulfill the requirement of the award of the degree of MA in Development Studies.

Finally the researcher hopes that the result of this study may be used by the future researchers in the field of women organizations and social development work.

## **OPERATIONAL DEFINITIONS**

**Perception:** in this study it means beliefs or opinions held by Borama community about women organizations.

**Women organizations:** in this study it refers to any NGOs (Non-Governmental Organizations) and CBOs (Civil Based Organizations) led and operated by women.

**Social development:** it means any improvements made to the lives of the people in terms of health, economic, education, consultancy and housing.

## **CHAPTER TWO**

### **LITERATURE REVIEW**

#### **Introduction**

In this chapter, the researcher reviewed the literature relating to community perception on women organizations. This review is adopted under the objectives of the study and discussed primarily the community perception on women organizations and their role in the community.

#### **Theoretical framework**

This study was based on the basic needs approach to development (Stewart et al,1992), in which they argued that the approach gives to meeting the basic needs of all the people. They always include such needs as the fulfillment of certain standards of nutrition (food and water), and universal provision of health and education services. This also covers other material needs like shelter and clothing, and non material needs such as employment, participation and political liberty. The approach best suits this study because the rural people in Borama district seem to be living under such conditions which requires strategic intervention in the areas of shelter, food, health, education and security which are essential for the development of the society.

## **Community perception on women organizations**

### **Gender imbalance**

Generally women organizations in Somaliland and particularly in Borama district are facing the challenge of gender disparity which is an obstacle to their contribution to the social development process. The community, International development partners and the government perceive that women organizations cannot carry out social development work because they are women; this happens when they write proposals for certain projects to international development partners and government and are not given the first priority (Nagaad, 2007) .

According to UNICEF (2002), gender refers to the asymmetrical power relations between the two genders. It refers to the amount of social power one has, based on her/his gender. Being boys or men and girls or women involves entering into power relations. In many societies boys/men occupy high status and highly paid positions and they regulate and control sexual relations; while girls/women are expected to engage in unrecognized and unrewarded activities. Women's task is to provide the domestic labour for their families and male partners. They are servants of men to enhance the good living of men.

The term gender is socially constructed to define the role of men and women in the society. According to Tuyizere (2007), gender is a social construct. The term is used to denote socially and culturally determined differences between men and women as opposed to biological differences determined by factors which are chromosomal, anatomical, hormonal and psychological. In this sense women and men are made rather than born. Women's and men's identities are developed through a complex process

in which separates gender scripts appropriate to a culture are learned. Gender systems are binary systems that oppose male to female, masculine to feminine, and usually not on an equal basis but in hierarchal order. Gender systems an asymmetrical cultural valuation of human beings, in which the ranking of traits and activities associated with women. Gender is powerful ideological device which produces, reproduces and legitimates the choices and limits that are predicted on sex category, and the outcome of those male processes is male privilege. In most literature the term gender is interpreted or approach in three different ways i.e. as social role, relations and practice.

### **Gender as a social role**

Gender as a social role is used to describe what women and men do, thereby implicitly defining as a socially learned behavior and activities associated with women versus men. According to Chen (1988) it has become clear that women's roles are essential and important in production. It has also become clear that gender division of labour exists in all societies and that is necessary to factor the gender variable into our analysis in order to plan and execute development projects with a higher power of predictability and effectiveness.

### **Gender as social relations**

Gender is a constructive element of social relationships, based on perceived differences between the sexes, and is primary way of signifying relationships of power (Tuyizere, 2007). The experience of womanhood and manhood are inseparable from relations of power and domination. Some analysts use the term gender relations to convey the general character of male-female relations within a household. Others use it to



suggest that gender relations are embedded in economic and political structures as well as in the relationship of everyday life, that relation of power enter into and are constituent element in every aspect of human experience.

### **Gender as a social practice**

According to Tuyizere (2007), gender as a practice is the notion that women are social actors who use systems to achieve. This approach focuses on what people do by way of shaping social relations they live with. The theorists acknowledge that the system has a determining effect on social action and even lead women to connive in their oppression. This system of inequality, constraints and domination enables women to resist and shape the form of domination.

### **Perception of community on women in politics and decision making**

According to Amina (2008), traditionally Somali women were absent from decision-making outside the family level. Most of the decisions made at the community level revolved around conflict resolution and other clan affairs, which were dealt with in all-male ad-hoc assemblies under the "justice tree". Women, although belonging to their father's clan like men, were never represented in these assemblies. Their role was limited to private consultations their husbands made with them on the matters at hand. And even these consultations were kept at a low profile in order not to undermine the man's role of public decision-maker.

As formal politics in the form of modern governance took shape after independence in 1960, political representation was based on the clan

system and men continued to occupy that domain. Ironically it was under the repressive military regime that Somali women for the first time took political positions in the public arena. But even then, Women's role remained minimal and few token positions were given to them.

With the collapse of the Somali central government a vacuum was created by the disintegration of all government institutions. As a result the traditional mechanisms for governance was revived in the newly created state of Somaliland as an option to avert the chaos and lawlessness that could have otherwise taken place in such a situation. However, resorting to traditional politics also means that women are marginalized in the process. Today, women are not represented in the governing bodies of the new State of Somaliland.

According to UNDP (2006), today, the participation of women in political and public decision-making is generally recognized both in political and in legislative terms. Despite these gains, gender discrimination remains a formidable barrier to women's participation in formal decision making processes. Political institutions tend to perpetuate an exclusionary attitude and culture of politics towards women. As a result, many women around the world have chosen to work outside formal politics within various civil society organizations and political parties that advocate for social and political change.

According to Bulhan (2005), women have traditionally enjoyed no formal role in the clan-based political process, despite their numerical superiority and their crucial role in raising families. Even today, women are not involved in the decision-making process of government and other public bodies dealing with issues that concern women directly. Women are not

only absent from the main branches of government (House of Elders, Representatives, Judiciary and the Executive Branch), but are also unrepresented in high administrative positions.

According to Asmahan (2008), traditionally, our country is described by historians as a place where only the tough could survive; women were instrumental in helping to make such a harsh situation more accommodative for a normal life. Their activities were centered on taking a large share in the socio-economic and mode of life that existed at the time.

In the rural areas, where the bulk of the population resided, women were vital in all household work, including making all items of which the Somali traditional house and utensils were made. They were also responsible for generating family incomes from the animal products and other materials woven out of the abundant and rich vegetation at the time. Moreover, rearing animals, especially sheep and goats were exclusively their inherent responsibility.

When it comes to decision-making, at the family level, women had an unenviable role in the family affairs. Even, when it comes to decisions at community level, where women had traditionally no direct say at the community fora, which was exclusively for men, their invisible voice and messages were echoed through their spouses. In this respect, the honors and merits of the ideas delivered at the meetings were attributed to men. But their background and sources, in most cases, were from women according to the public perceptions at large.

## **Community perception on women's economic contribution**

Women all over the world perform multiple roles in productive labour (paid and unpaid) which is not reflected in their official measures of economic activity. Their access to equal pay for comparable work, family benefits, financial credit and the right to own and inherit property are either non-existent or are limited by law and traditional patriarchal constraints that continue to undermine female economic life.

The traditional gender division of labour treats domestic work as a voluntary contribution by women and perpetuates inequity at every income level. Issues to be addressed should include the greater vulnerability of women due to loss of employment, interrupted employment due to conflict and a gender differentiated assessment of the discrimination faced by women in social welfare systems.

In situations of armed conflict or impoverishment after conflict, women in developing countries tend to maintain their livelihood and that of their families by working in the informal sector. Thus, their labour is not recognized and socially protected and they are completely dislocated from the traditional community in the holding of lands and resources. Resettlement is conducted under patriarchal processes and gives control of rehabilitation packages to men. Even if the situation eventually permits return to the original habitat, women's lives have been drastically altered by the conflict (UNDP, 2006).

Gender inequality is associated with social norms that assign distinct roles to each gender in a division of labour that limits the opportunities

available to women and their ability to participate in political and economic life on the same footing as men. The responsibility of women for reproduction of the household (and, by extension, of society) involves the functions of caregiver, cleaner, cook and seamstress, among others, to which can be added, in rural agrarian societies, that of subsistence food producer. These responsibilities severely limit women's possibilities of finding full time, paid employment in the labour market. When women do integrate in the formal labour market, they face occupational segregation and discrimination resulting from gender stereotyping and from male authority at home, which translates into the workplace as well. This disadvantaged position weakens women's bargaining power both at home and in the workplace, which translates into a reduced capacity to earn an income and limits, if not prevents, their access to resources such as land and credit. When combined with a lack of access to services such as education and health care, the full economic dimensions of gender inequality are revealed, in terms of both opportunities and outcomes (IFAD, 2003).

Women rarely have access to the resources that would make their work more productive and ease their heavy workload. Ultimately, it is not just women who are held back, but also their families, their communities and local economies. Rural women have many roles, and they have responsibilities and knowledge that differ from those of men. As farmers, they plant, weed and harvest food crops and tend livestock. As caretakers, they look after children and relatives, prepare meals and manage the home. Many women earn extra income by working as wage labourers, producing and selling vegetables, or engaging in small-scale trading and enterprises. Added to these multiple tasks, they spend long hours fetching

water and collecting firewood. In developing countries in Africa, Asia and the Pacific, women typically work 12 more hours per week than men. In poor and marginal areas and areas affected by climate change, where men have been forced to migrate in search of work, women often have the sole responsibility for farming and raising the children (IFAD, 2003).

### **Factors which led to the formation of these organizations**

Several factors contributed to the growth women's organizations in post conflict societies. First, the social, economic, and political transformation that took place during the conflicts was a major contributing factor. Conflict not only undermined the traditional social order but also facilitated increased participation of women in public affairs. Second, some women became disillusioned with the leaders of political parties who initially professed commitment to gender equality but later reneged on this commitment. They founded women's organizations to promote feminist agenda. Third, the reforms initiated as a part of the peace process by transition governments created political space to establish women's organizations (Kumar, 2001).

According to SIHA (2005), there are three driving factors which led women to organize and establish their own non-governmental organizations and to respond to the needs of the war-affected population. They include:

- i. The fall of Somali state (statelessness, lawlessness and power vacuum). It was violently removed by armed groups.
- ii. The rupture of gender relations (men being occupied with both clan welfare and power struggle). As a result, patriarchal structure

- weakened temporarily. Somali women got the opportunity to reinvent themselves and reassert their agency in lawless nation.
- iii. And the civil war and its devastating impacts on the people.

### **Role of women organizations in the community**

Women organizations have been active in almost every important sector social, educational, economic, and political in Somaliland. They established health clinics, provided reproductive health care, and organized mass vaccination programs. They carried out programs to generate income and employment for women and women-headed households, particularly focusing on vocational training and microcredit. In addition, they addressed various problems such as domestic violence, prostitution, and the plight of returning refugees and internally displaced women. The promotion of democracy and human rights was another area in which women organizations have been active. In addition, women organizations promoted social reconciliation among former militias. They sponsored meetings, seminars, and marches to promote mutual understanding and goodwill. Finally, they undertook advocacy activities to fight discrimination and promote gender equality. Several organizations also worked to increase women's participation in political affairs. Some organizations developed women's platforms, covering vital matters affecting women, and sought the endorsement of political parties (Elmi, 2006).

Most of the leaders of women's organizations are educated, urban and middle class. They stated that they were compelled to assist vulnerable groups "women and children". "We had to do something to save the lives of our people. These leaders have sold their meager assets (jewelry) to set up a feeding programme, schools and so on. As the sufferings of the

Somali people intensified in the 1990s, Somali women were confronted to respond to the humanitarian crisis. Some of these women's organizations may have lacked the skills, capacity and the required resources to carry out such daunting tasks. Similarly Somali women living outside of the country were compelled to do something for their families, neighbors, people and communities. Somali female activists who were inside Somalia sought the support of Somali diaspora, particularly women to finance some of their relief projects. Somali women abroad have organized various events such as luncheon, dinner to collect funds from every individual who attended such events (Nagaad, 2007).

Their contributions to community development and peace-building initiatives are small-scale but yet are having enormous impact on the lives of ordinary people living in fragile situation. Their programmes are building new communities. In spite of the absence of state, war, lawlessness, chaos, poverty and under-development, Somali women have been participating in a new and vital civil society development in war-torn Somalia. The activities of such organizations are crucial and highly needed in post-conflict situation such as Somalia (Kumar, 2001).

### **Women organizations in peace and security**

In 1992, a local women's organization, the Somaliland Women Development Association (SWDA) in Hargeysa, collected funding from the public and some NGOs to establish and maintain a police force to restore peace and security in their areas to secure their environment to conduct their daily affairs without fear of being robbed, or attacked by the militia. In the same year, the women organized demonstrations lobbying the



council of elders to halt the civil war between two major clans and to call for a reconciliation meeting.

During 1994-96 conflict in Somaliland, the Women's Peace Group of the Committee of Concerned Somalis in Hargeysa organized 'walks of life' and a prayer meeting on 28 March 1996 in New Hargeysa at the Beerta Sayidka. At the same time, a group of 22 women submitted an official letter to the government of Somaliland to protest the outbreak of civil strife. The message of the letter was that the women of Somaliland need a lasting peace and to spare the lives of vulnerable people, to spare the long-fought for freedom and not to increase the number of orphans (Gees, 2004).

## **The Economic Role of Somali Women**

Perhaps the most important way in which women contribute to the economy is through their work. Women have always worked as farmers, teachers, domestic workers, nurses, volunteers, mothers, child care workers, and business owners. Women have made and continue to make essential and enormous contributions to the economy.

It is the women who make the local markets thrive by selling goods - clothing, gold and foodstuffs - in order to feed their families.

Nomadic women make a decisive contribution to the economy in the form of labour and through the products goats and sheep, some of which they own. Women are the architects of the nomad society; they both build and own the nomadic hut an important element of the wedding ritual and the marriage and one of the many activities that women traditionally

accomplish together. Women also work to collect wood and fetch water, prepare food, and feed the children. Much of this work is heavy.

In agricultural areas, women have farming duties, working in the field with other members of their extended family and tending her of cattle and small livestock.

Somali women within the fishing communities make the “fishing nets, baskets, and boat utensils” as well as “selling surplus fish” (Farah, 2003)

Women’s income whether from the formal or informal sector largely goes towards caring for the family (e.g. providing food, education and health), whereas men tend to have more control over income (whether earned by them or their wives) for the satisfaction of their individual needs (including leisurely pursuits such as drinking). Highlighting the interrelatedness of women’s productive and reproductive roles also provides a better understanding of the importance of their roles in the reproduction of society. Nowhere is this interrelatedness more evident than in economies dominated by agriculture, where women tend to participate in cash crop farming done by their husbands, while at the same time being equally responsible for household food security and basic medical care, in addition to coping with typical domestic responsibilities such as child-rearing and running the household (UNDP, 2008).

## **Women organizations and health**

Grass root women organizations play a significant role in implementing primary health care. Since their goal is to satisfy the immediate needs of their members, they often carry out a number of health related activities. Where health services are supporting such groups, the activities are more effective and might include for example, organizing mothers for maternal health, providing information on family planning and health education. Health education programs by women organizations are especially beneficial because a group of women rather than individuals is involved (Fang, 2008).

## **Women organizations and capacity building**

According to UNDP (2006), most of the women organizations who are working with the people in rural areas and urban slums are providing non-formal education. Most women NGO's primary goal is not education, but they take up non-formal education as prerequisite to teach the people about health, family planning, environment etc. Those NGO who implement women development programs like family planning programmes, environmental protection programme etc. found that without providing basic literacy the people cannot effectively grasp and utilize knowledge and skills. So most of women NGOs have undertaken non-formal education programme. But there are some NGOs which specially work for non-formal education. Since the government do not give priority to non-formal education, it has not been able to improve their technical expertise of nonformal education among its functionaries. It is obvious that the government, which lacks expertise, cannot help NGO to acquire and improve their technical expertise. Therefore about 9 women

international assistance, which often prevented long-term planning by women's organizations.

In addition, women's organizations had their internal limitations. Many organizations suffered from management and leadership problems. Their top leadership was reluctant to delegate power and to train junior staff for future leadership. The leaders were concerned that a professionally trained staff might challenge their authority. They also tended to monopolize participation in international training programs, meetings, and conferences. Consequently, middle and junior staff, who found prospects for upward mobility within the organization blocked by the top brass, was naturally frustrated in many organizations. This affected not only the day-to-day operations of these organizations but also their long-term viability. Finally, the lack of communication and cooperation among women's organizations limited their impact. As a result, efforts were often duplicated, the image of women's organizations in the public mind was undermined, and skills and expertise were not shared across organizations (Kumar, 2001).

## **CHAPTER THREE**

### **RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

#### **Introduction**

This chapter presents the methods used in conducting this study. It describes deeply the research design, target population, sample size and sampling techniques, data collections methods and tools, data analysis and limitations come across in conducting the study.

#### **Research design**

This study employed descriptive research design to describe the perception of community on women organizations in Borama district, Somaliland. Descriptive research is a process of collecting data in order to test hypothesis or to answer questions concerning the current status of the subjects in the study (Mugenda, 2002).

#### **Research Population**

The target population of this study was the community resided in Borama district both urban and rural areas which is 200,000 NEC (2008). Therefore the researcher has drawn the sample from this population. Moreover, to be selected for the study, the respondent should be male or female aged above 20 years and who live in Borama district.

## Sample Framework

A sample is a representative portion of the population from which data is drawn Amin (2005). The researcher was not able to get information from all the community of Borama district. Therefore the researcher has drawn a sample from the entire population.

## Sample size

According to Oso and Onen (2008), there are three basic techniques for determining sample size which are: non-mathematical or convenience method where the sample size is determined at the discretion of the researcher, statistical methods using statistical formulae, and finally statistical tables. Since the target population of the study was Borama district community in both rural and urban areas and homogeneous the researcher has selected 80 respondents from Borama district at his discretion as shown in the following table.

**Table 1:** Places that were sampled in Borama district.

Name of the place	Community elders	Community members	Total
1. Borama	5	35	40
2. Boon	2	15	17
3. Idan	2	11	13
4. Goryo'awl	2	8	10

Total	11	69	<b>80</b>
-------	----	----	-----------

## **Sampling techniques**

This study used purposive sampling and simple random sampling SRS, purposive sampling was used for selecting community leaders from the selected areas and SRS for selecting community members.

## **Sample procedure**

The study has taken the views of both community and their leaders. Therefore, purposive sampling was used for selecting community leaders while simple random sampling was used for selecting community members.

## **Methods**

### **Instruments**

The study used questionnaires both interviews as the main tools for data collection. The selection of these tools has been guided by the nature of data to be collected, the time available as well as by the objective of the study.

## **Questionnaire**

Since the researcher anticipated that respondents could comprise both literate and illiterate, the researcher administered questionnaires to those who can read and write because questionnaires enables to access to huge information within little time.

## **Interviews**

Since some of the respondents were illiterate and could not understood questionnaires, the researcher conducted interviews with them so as to get information from them.

## **Sources of data**

### **Primary data**

Primary data was collected by using questionnaires and interviews. The questionnaire consisted of questions sought to answers questions related to the objectives of the study.

### **Secondary sources**

Secondary data was obtained from different sources done by other scholars/researchers who were not direct observant or participants in the events described. These sources include published scholarly articles, reports as well as authored books.



## **Validity & reliability**

The researcher conducted pre-test to make sure the reliability of the instrument and at the same time the validity of the instrument was judged by an expert.

## **Data analysis**

The researcher analyzed the enlisted data of both the qualitative and quantitative methods. The purpose of the qualitative research is to promote greater understanding of not just the way things are but also why they are the way they are.

Qualitative analysis was prominent because respondents had more than what is demanded from them (Amin, 2005).

SPSS was used to draw tables and to determine the frequencies and percentages, which helped the researcher to interpret the findings in chapter four.

## **Ethical Considerations**

The research activity of this study started immediately when an introductory letter was secured from the School of Postgraduate Studies and Research of Kampala International University. Thereafter, copies of the letter were used to introduce the researcher to the respondents and interviewees. The researcher introduced himself to the community and due their acceptance; started collecting for research.

The major ethical considerations of this study were the privacy and the confidentiality of the respondents. Obtaining a valid sample was entailed gaining access to specific lists and files which itself is an infringement on the privacy and the confidentiality of the respondents. However the respondents had the freedom to ignore items that they do not wish to respond to.

Due to the nature of this study confidentiality, nonjudgmental principle and individualism was given due to consideration plus any other form of anonymity among respondents was attended to. An introduction letter from the school of post graduate studies backed by the identity card was used for identification throughout the research.

### **Limitations of the Study**

Since the respondents were busy with other schedules, so that the research did not get as much time from them as anticipated, this challenge was solved by seeking appointments with them at their convenient places and time.

Secondly, some respondents were not willing to concentrate on giving the needed information that would be crucial to the researcher due to negligence and some of them might get difficult with the English language which might made them misunderstood what they were expecting to answer, such that translating the instruments from English to Somali consumed more time than expected.

Thirdly, Borama district is very large and it became difficult for the researcher to reach to some of the places as planned due to financial difficulties which made impossible to the researcher to the target population completely.

## CHAPTER FOUR

### DATA PRESENTATION, ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSIONS

#### Introduction

This chapter presents data analysis, presentation and interpretation. The data analysis and interpretation was based on the research questions as well as research objectives, the presentation was divided in to two parts. The first part presents the respondent's profile or demographic information, while the second part deals with presentation, interpretation, and analysis of the other research objectives. Below are the data presentations and analysis of research findings.

#### Socio-demographic profile

The participants of the study had different demographic profiles i.e. different sex, age, marital status, living place, occupation and educational backgrounds. The presentation of respondent's profile is shown in table 1

**Table 2:** Socio-demographic profile

Demographic profile		frequency	Percentage
Gender	Male	60	75
	Female	20	25
Age	14-25 yrs	29	36
	26-35 yrs	28	35
	36-45 yrs	12	15
	45+	11	14
Marital status	Single	30	38
	Married	37	46

	Widowed	13	16
Living place	Urban	40	50
	Rural	40	50
Duration of the living place	1-5 yrs	15	19
	6-10 yrs	15	19
	10 yrs+	50	62
Level of education	University	29	36
	Secondary	18	23
	Primary/inter	17	21
	None	16	20
Occupation	Business person	20	26
	Professional worker	17	21
	Farmer	13	16
	Student	17	21
	Other	13	16

Table 2 indicates that 60 (75%) of the respondents were males and the remaining 20 (25%) were females. This suggests that the majority of the respondents were males as they dominate the respondents. The researcher was also able to obtain views on women organizations from both sexes.

It also indicates that 29 (36.5%) of the respondents were between the ages of 15-25, 28 (35%) were between the ages of 26-35, 12(15%) were between the ages of 36-45, and 11 (13.8) were above the age of 45. The age groups of 24-35 yrs and 15-25 yrs have a positive perception on women organizations and their contributions to the community compared to the two other age groups. The difference in perception of the above mentioned age groups is the result of their educational background differences.

It also indicates that 30 (37.5%) of the respondents were single, 37 (46.2%) were married, and 13 (16.2%) were widow(er). The researcher noted that the majority of the respondents were married and single compared to the widow(er)s.

It also indicates that 40 (50%) of the respondents were living in urban areas while the remaining 40 (50%) were living in rural areas. This shows that communities living in urban areas have a positive perception on women organizations compared to the communities living in rural areas. This difference is the result of that urban communities have reached higher levels of education, worked with women organizations and have seen their efforts in contributing to the social development work.

Moreover it indicates that 15 (18.8%) of the respondents were lived their areas of residence between 1-5 years, 15 (18.8%) were lived between 6-10 years, while 50 (62.5) were lived more than 10 years. How long respondents have been living their areas of residence is different among them. Majority of the respondents have been living their areas of residence more than 10 years. Those who have been lived their areas more than 10 years have a positive perception about women organizations and their work since the end of the civil war.

The table also indicates that 29 (36.2%) were reached at university level, 18 (22.5%) were reached at secondary level, 17 (21.5%) were reached at primary/intermediate level, and the remaining 16 (20%) are not reached at any level of education. This shows that the community sampled were highly educated people and mainly they have reached university level and secondary level of educations. Consequently, their educational level made them to have a positive perception on women organizations although there are some elites who criticize women organization by not putting the needed effort to their work.

Finally it indicates that 20 (25%) of the respondents were business people, 17 (21.2%) were professional workers, 13 (16.2%) were farmers, 17 (21.2%) were students and the remaining 13 (16.2%) have said they are involving other occupation. Majority of the respondents were business people and professional workers. Farmers and business people are among those who have positive perception on them. On the other hand students, professional workers and others have negative perception on women organizations.

## **COMMUNITY PERCEPTION ON WOMEN ORGANIZATIONS**

Participants of the study were asked to express their perception on women organizations. The points that participants were asked were to express their ideas on whether or not women organizations are major contributors to the social development work, whether or not they are capable in contributing to the social development work, their loyalty in working social development and their helpfulness to the community. The presentation of this is shown in table 3

**Table 3:** community perception

<b>Community perception</b>		<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Social development in general	SA	29	37
	A	40	50
	D	9	11
	SD	2	2
Capability of social development	SA	16	20
	A	36	45
	D	29	25
	SD	8	10
Loyalty to the social development work	SA	27	34
	A	31	38
	D	15	19
	SD	7	9
Community action	SA	24	30
	A	43	54
	D	9	11
	SD	4	5

Table 3 indicates that 29 (36.2%) of the respondents have strongly agreed that women organizations are the major contributors to the social development work, 40 (50%) have agreed that women organizations are major contributors, 9 (11.2%) have disagreed, and the remaining 2 (2.5%) have strongly disagreed that women organizations are major contributors to the social development work. This shows that the bulk of the respondents have a positive perception on women organizations



because of their involvement in the social development work since the end of the civil war.

It also indicates that 16 (20.0%) of the respondents have strongly agreed that women organizations are more capable to carry out social development work, 36 (45%) have agreed, 10 (25.0%) have disagreed that women organization are more capable, while 8 (10%) have strongly disagreed that women organization are more capable in carrying social development work than any other organizations. Majority of the respondents perceive that women organizations are more capable in contributing to the social development work than any other organizations. This perception is resulted of their longstanding work and effort in the society.

It also shows that 27 (33.8%) of the respondents have strongly agreed that women organizations are more loyal to carry out social development work, 31 (38.8%) have agreed, 15 (18.8%) have disagreed that women organizations are more loyal, while 7 (8.8%) have strongly disagreed. This shows that the majority of the respondents perceive that women organizations are loyal to the work of social development they are involved.

Finally it shows that 24 (30%) of the respondents have strongly agreed that women organizations are helpful to the community, 43 (53.8%) have agreed, 9 (11.2%) have disagreed that women organizations are helpful, and 4 (5%) have strongly disagreed. This shows that the majority of the respondents have agreed that women organizations are helpful to the community. And this is true because it was women organizations those who helped the society during and after the civil war.

Participants of the study were also asked to show whether or not they are satisfied with the work that women organization are carrying out in their places of residence. They were also asked to express their ideas if it is better for women organizations to stay at homes and do household activities instead of engaging outside home activities, whether or not women in women organizations are violating Somali culture by involving outside home activities and whether or not women organizations divert funds for their own uses. The presentation of the above points is shown in table 4

**Table 4:** community perception on women organizations' activities

<b>Community perception</b>		<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentages</b>
Level of satisfaction	SA	12	15
	A	28	35
	D	33	42
	SD	7	8
Women and culture	SA	17	21
	A	24	30
	D	16	20
	SD	23	29
Women as homemakers	SA	28	35
	A	25	31
	D	18	23
	SD	9	11
Women org primary objective	SA	7	9
	A	26	33
	D	28	35

	SD	19	23
Fund diversion	SA	9	11
	A	16	20
	D	25	31
	SD	30	38

Table 4 indicates that 12 (15%) of the respondents said they were strongly satisfied with the work of women organizations, 28 (35%) have agreed, 33 (41.2%) have disagreed that they are satisfied with the work of women organizations, while 7 (8.8%) have strongly disagreed. This shows that the majority of the respondents did not satisfy the work of women organizations. But this is not true because women organization do not have all the necessary facilities required to carry out social development in a way that satisfies the community.

It also shows that 17 (21.1%) of the respondents have strongly agreed that women in women organizations are violating Somali culture, 24 (30%) have agreed, 16 (20%) have disagreed that women in women organizations are violating Somali culture, while 23 (28.8%) have strongly disagreed. This shows that the majority of the respondents refused that women in women organizations are violating Somali culture by involving outside work. This is true because the poor people in Somaliland need assistance from their people. Therefore, since women organizations are among the people of Somaliland and are assisting their suffering community they are not violating the culture.

The table reflects also that 28 (35%) of the respondents have strongly agreed that it is better for women to stay at home, 25 (31.2%) have agreed, 18 (22.5%) have disagreed that it is better for women to stay at

home, while 9 (11.2%) have strongly disagreed. This shows that majority of the respondents accepted that it is better for women in women organizations to stay at homes as homemakers. This can be looked at two dimensions first, it is good for women to stay at homes and care their children if there is no problem which forces them out of their homes. But on the other hand, if the community needs their effort to intervene deteriorated issues they should come out of their homes.

It also reveals that 7 (8.8%) of the respondents have strongly agreed that women organizations' primary objective is income, 26 (32.5%) have agreed, 28 (35%) have disagreed that women organization's primary objective is income, and 19 (23.8%) have strongly disagreed. This shows that majority of the respondents refused that women organizations' primary objective is to generate financial resources. This is true because women in women organizations sold their personal property so as to help their community.

Lastly it indicates that 9 (11.2%) of the respondents have strongly agreed that women organizations divert funds for their use, 16 (20%) have agreed, 25 (31.2%) have disagreed that women organizations divert funds for their own use, and 30 (37%) have strongly disagreed. This shows that majority of the respondents refused that women organization divert funds for their own uses. This is true in accordance with other scholars who said that women organizations in Somaliland devoted their resources to help their community.

## **PROJECTS IMPLEMENTED BY WOMEN ORGANIZATIONS**

The participants of the study were asked to state the most successful projects implemented in their areas of residence. The projects that were asked the respondents were health, educational, micro-credit, capacity

building and awareness raising projects. The presentation of their answers in shown in table 5

**Table 5:** successful projects implemented by women organizations

Type of projects		Frequency	percentages
Health projects	SA	5	6
	A	16	20
	D	32	40
	SD	27	34
Educational projects	SA	9	11
	A	21	26
	D	30	38
	SD	20	25
Micro-credit projects	SA	7	9
	A	18	22
	D	26	33
	SD	29	36
Capacity building projects	SA	13	16
	A	30	38
	D	19	24
	SD	18	22
Awareness raising projects	SA	27	34
	A	24	30
	D	16	20
	SD	13	16

Table 5 indicates that 5 (6.2%) of the respondents have strongly agreed that women organizations implemented health projects in their areas of residence, 16 (20%) have agreed, 32 (40%) have disagreed that health projects were implemented in their areas of residence by women organizations, and 27 (33.8%) have strongly disagreed. This shows that majority of the respondents refused that health projects are implemented in their areas of residence. Rural communities are those who refused that health projects are implemented in their areas of residence. This is true because women organizations can not extend their work to all rural areas due to both technical and financial problems.

It also depicts that 9 (11.2%) of the respondents have strongly agreed that educational projects were implemented in their areas of residence by women organizations, 21 (26.2%) have agreed, 30 (37.5%) have disagreed that educational projects were implemented in their areas of residence, while 20 (25%) have strongly disagreed. This shows that majority of the respondents refused that women organizations implement educational projects in their areas of residence. And it is also clear from the above table that women organizations do not implement educational projects as much as expected by the community.

The table also reflects that 7 (8.8%) of the respondents have agreed that micro-credit projects are implemented in their areas of residence by women organizations, 18 (22.5%) have agreed, 26 (32.5%) have disagreed that micro-credit projects are implemented in their areas of residence, and 29 (36.2%) have strongly disagreed. This shows that majority of the respondents have refused that women organizations implement micro-credit projects in their areas of residence. Micro-credit projects require much more resources to be implemented. Such projects can only be implemented by financially strong institutions such as banks,

large businesses, government agencies and United Nations' developmental agencies.

Moreover it shows that 13 (16.2%) of the respondents have strongly agreed that capacity building projects were implemented in their areas of residence by women organizations, 30 (37.5%) have agreed, 19 (23.8%) have disagreed that capacity building projects are implemented in their areas of residence, while 18 (22.5%) have strongly disagreed. This shows that majority of the respondents accepted that women organizations implemented capacity building projects in their areas of residence. This is true because women organizations normally offer training programmes such as tailoring, typing and other secretariat skills required by the beneficiaries.

Lastly, the table indicates that 27 (38.8%) of the respondents have strongly agreed that awareness raising projects were implemented in their areas of residence by women organizations, 24 (30%) have agreed, 16 (20%) have disagreed that awareness projects were implemented in their areas of residence, 13 (16.2%) have strongly disagreed. This shows that majority of the respondents accepted that awareness raising projects are among the most successful projects implemented in their areas of residence by women organizations. Women organizations normally raise the awareness of the community about HIV/AIDS, the importance of sanitation and hygiene and any other issues which they consider that it will endanger the lives of the community.

## **CHAPTER FIVE**

### **FINDINGS, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION**

#### **Introduction**

This chapter will discuss the findings, conclusion and recommendation of this study. First, it will be discussed the major findings of each study as stated in the research objectives. Second, the conclusion will be drawn from the findings of the study. And lastly, the researcher will bring recommendation about further research for study.

#### **Level of community perception on women organizations**

The first objective of this study was to identify the level of community perception on women organizations in Borama district. Data analysis and interpretations revealed that majority of respondents agreed that women organizations have been playing great role in contributing to the social development since the end of the civil war.

This is in line with Mehra (2003) according to her; Women Organization began its work in the community providing what the International Alert framework terms survival and basic needs. At the outset of the war in 1989–1992, fighting in the northern regions had already contributed to the disintegration of families. The sick and wounded set up camps in looted government buildings, and it was there that women organizations organized their first outreach efforts. Women organizations worked hard to extend their influence and impact by providing housing, counseling, education, training, and jobs for women affected by conflict and victimized by human rights abuses.



In addition, the study showed that respondents agreed it is better for women in women organizations to stay at home and do household chores rather than involving outside home activities. This is in line with APD (2004), traditionally, the role of women in Somaliland among the society is described as that the purpose of women is to be a mother of her children, to be cook, laundry women nurturer and wife to her husband.

Also it is in line with UNDP (2006), Women all over the world perform multiple roles in productive labour (paid and unpaid) which is not reflected in their official measures of economic activity. Their access to equal pay for comparable work, family benefits, financial credit and the right to own and inherit property are either non-existent or are limited by law and traditional patriarchal constraints that continue to undermine female economic life.

It also indicates that respondents disagreed that the primary objective of women organizations is generating financial resources for the owners. This is in line with Kumar (2002), most of the leaders of women's organizations are educated, urban and middle class. They stated that they were compelled to assist vulnerable groups "women and children". These leaders have sold their meager assets (jewelry) to set up a feeding programme, schools and so on. As the sufferings of the Somali people intensified in the 1990s, Somali women were confronted to respond to the humanitarian crisis. Some of these women's organizations may have lacked the skills, capacity and the required resources to carry out such daunting tasks.

## **The significant difference in the level of perception of rural and urban**

The second objective of this study was to establish a significant difference in the level of perception of urban and rural community on women organizations. Data analysis and interpretations revealed that larger number of urban respondents compared to rural respondents agreed the role of women organizations in contributing social development.

In addition, this study shows that there is a difference in perception on women organizations' primary objective since urban respondents disagreed that women organizations' primary objective is generating financial resources for the owners.

## **Determining successful projects implemented by women organizations**

The third objective of the study was to determine the most successful projects implemented by women organizations. Data analysis and interpretations revealed that awareness rising and capacity building projects are among the most successful projects implemented by women organizations.

This is in line with UNDP (2006), most women NGO's primary goal is not education, but they take up non-formal education as prerequisite to teach the people about health, family planning, environment etc. Those NGO who implement women development programs like family planning programmes, environmental protection programme etc. found that

without providing basic literacy the people cannot effectively grasp and utilize knowledge and skills.

## **CONCLUSIONS**

This study investigated the perception of the community on women organizations in Borama district. The study showed that the majority of the respondents have a positive perception about women organizations. They agreed that women organizations have contributed to the society since the end of the civil war and that without their social contribution many lives of the vulnerable people would have lost.

In addition the study showed that respondents believe that women in women organizations should stay at home and do house hold chores instead of engaging outside activities. The majority of the respondents also denied that the primary objective of women organizations in generating income for the owners.

The study established that there is a difference in perception between urban and rural communities in Borama district. It reveals rural communities have disagreed the role of women organizations in contributing to the social development since they only help the urban communities. Moreover, they said that their primary objective is generating funds. However, the urban communities have agreed and praised women organization for their contribution and dedications.

Lastly, the study showed that capacity building and awareness raising projects were among the most successful projects implemented by

women organizations in both urban and rural areas. While health, micro-credit and educational projects were not successfully implemented in either urban or rural areas by them.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

Having deeply studied community perception on women organizations in Borama district Somaliland, the researcher unearthed some loopholes in community perception and the role of women organizations in contributing to the social development work. Based on the identified loopholes the researcher therefore made the following:

### **Local Community should:**

- i. Should encourage and create conducive environment for women organizations so as to carry out their work in effective manner.
- ii. Should collaborate with women organizations in terms of fund raising and implementing developmental projects.

### **Women Organizations should:**

- i. Extend their social development work to the vulnerable groups in rural areas.
- ii. Implement developmental projects in accordance of their importance to the beneficiaries.
- iii. Emphasize implementing health and educational projects in rural areas where the bulk of the vulnerable people live.
- iv. Include the ideas of the community and their leaders to the plan during the implementation of developmental projects.

### **The Government should**

- i. Give incentives to women organizations to double their effort in intervening deteriorated social development issues.
- ii. Offer training programmes to empower the members of women organizations so as to overcome challenges and obstacles they face.
- iii. Encourage and praise women organizations for their contribution to the community.

### **International Development Partners should:**

- i. Help women organizations to build their capacity by giving trainings and education which will enable them to carry out their work successfully.
- ii. Give women organizations' proposals as much consideration as they give male dominated organizations and accept them if they are qualified.
- iii. Give donations to women organizations as they need financial and technical donations to carry out their work effectively.

### **Trade Unions should:**

- i. Contribute funds to women organizations during fund raising and implementations of developmental projects.
- ii. Give subsidy to women organizations when they face financial difficulties.

**Religious Groups:**

Since Borama district community is Muslim, religious groups should advocate for women organizations and inform the community the importance of their work.

**Suggestions for further studies**

Assessing the challenges facing women organizations.

The role of women organizations in economic development.

## REFERENCES

- APD (2004). *Somaliland socio-economic survey*. Hargaisa: Somaliland Publishing co.
- Asmahan (2008). *Assessing Somaliland women's status*. Hargaisa: Somaliland Publishing co.
- Amin, E (2005). *Social Science Research*. Kampala: Makerere.
- Amina (2005). *Assessment of potential women leaders in Somaliland*. Hargaisa: Somaliland publishing co.
- Bulhan (2005). *A self portrait of Somaliland: rebuilding from ruins*. Hargaisa: Somaliland center of peace and development.
- Chen, M.A (1998). *Integrating WID or Reconstructing Development*. Washington DC: AWID
- Elmi, F (2006). *Women organizations and community development in Somalia*. Kenya: UNICEF
- Fang, M (2008). *Women's Organizations and The Changing State*. London: London school of economics
- Farah, Y (2003). *The Role of Women in Economic Development in Somaliland*. Addis Ababa: UNDP
- Gees, M (2004). *Conflict and Conflict Resolution in Somaliland*. Hargaisa: Somaliland Publishing co.
- Husien, A (2006). *Removing Barricades in somalia: Options for Peace and Rehabilitation*. Washington D.C: Peaceworks.
- IFAD (2003). *Women and Rural Development*. Kenya: Acts press
- Mehra, R (1996). *Taking Women Into Account: Lessons Learned from NGO Project Experiences*. Washington, D.C: Interaction
- Kumar (2002). *Women and women's organizations in post conflict Societies*. Washington: US agency for international development.

- Mugenda ,O & mugenda, A (2002). *Research Methods Quantitative & Qualitative approaches*. Kenya: Acts press
- Nagaad Umbrella (2007). *Women's right in Somaliland*. Hargaisa: Nagaad Umbrella.
- NEC (2008). *Somaliland voter registration*. Hargaisa: Somaliland Publishing co.
- Oso,W & Onen,W (2008). *A General Guide to Writing Research Proposal and Report*.Kampala: Makerere University.
- SIHA (2005). *Violance Against Women and Girls in Conflict and Post Conflict Situations* [Electronic] Retreived on [ May, 25, 2011] From <http://www.sihanet.org/>
- Somaliland Government (2005). *Somaliland after the civil war*. Hargaisa : Somaliland Publishing co.
- Stewart, F (1992). *Alternative development strategies in Sub-Saharan Africa* [Electronic] Retrieved on [March, 12, 2010] from <http://www.gprg.org/>
- Tuyizere, A.P.(2007). *Gender and development*. Kampala: fountain Publishers
- UNDP (2008). *The sixth clan-women organize for peace and social welfare*. UNDP:Kenya.
- UNICEF (2002). *Girl's Education Training Manual: focus on the African girl's education*. Nairobi: UNICEF
- World Book (2001). *The world book encyclopedia*. Chicago: Scott fetzer Company.



## APPENDICES

### APPENDIX I: QUESTIONNAIRE

Dear Respondent,

I am student at Kampala International University studying a Master of Arts in Development Studies; this questionnaire has been prepared for data collection concerning **"Community perception on women organizations in Somaliland"**.

Please be assured that the data you provide will be used for academic purpose only and shall be kept with utmost confidentiality.

Therefore, you are kindly requested to answer the following questions fully and honestly according to the best of your knowledge by either ticking on the right option or filling in the blank spaces provided. Assistance will be highly appreciated.

Thank you very much in advance

Yours truly,

Nour Abdi Nour

Candidate for Master of Arts in Development Studies

Kampala International University

Kampala, Uganda

## SECTION 1: DEMOGRAPHIC QUESTIONS:

1. SEX

Male

☐

Female

☐

2. Age \_\_\_\_\_

3. Marital status

Single

☐

Married

☐

Widowed

☐

Separated

☐

4. Living place

Urban

☐

Rural

☐

5. How long have you been lived here?

6. Educational level

University

☐

Secondary

☐

Intermediate

☐

Primary

☐

None

☐

7. Occupation

Business person

☐

Professional worker

☐

Farmer

☐

Student

☐

Other, specify \_\_\_\_\_

**Section 2: Questions for the community to express their perception on Women Organizations.**

**Instructions**

*Please write your answer to the statements below. Kindly use the rating guide as follows for:*

- |                          |                             |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------|
| <b>1. Strongly agree</b> | <b>3. Disagree</b>          |
| <b>2. Agree</b>          | <b>4. Strongly disagree</b> |

Scale		4	3	2	1
8	Women organizations have been a major contributor to the social development since the end of the civil war.				
9	Women organizations are more capable to carry out social development work than any other organizations.				
10	Women organizations are more loyal to carry out social development work than any other organizations (mixed or men organizations).				
11	Women organizations are helpful to your community.				
12	You are satisfied with the work of women organizations in your area of residence.				
13	Women in women organizations are violating Somali culture and values by involving				

	outside work.				
14	It is better for women to stay at home and do household chores.				
15	Women organizations' primary objective is to generate financial resources for the founders rather than contributing to the social development.				
16	In your area of residence, women organizations divert funds for their own use instead of implementing needed project for the community.				

**Section 3: Question for the community to determine projects implemented in their area of residence by women organizations.**

**Instructions: *Please write your answer to the statements below. Kindly use the rating guide as follows for:***

**1. Strongly agree**

**3. Disagree**

**2. Agree**

**4. Strongly disagree**

Scale		4	3	2	1
17	Health projects are implemented in your area of residence by women organizations.				
18	Educational projects are implemented in your area of residence by women organizations.				

19	Micro-credit project are implemented in your area of residence by women organizations.				
20	Capacity building projects are implemented in your area of residence by women organizations.				
21	Awareness raising projects are implemented in your area of residence by women organizations.				

#### **SECTION 4: interview guide for respondents**

1. How do you see the work of women organizations in your area of residence?

---



---



---



---

2. Do you believe that women organizations divert funds to their personal objectives?

---



---



---



---

3. Do you think that women organizations are violating Somali culture by doing outside household activities?

---



---



---



---

4. Are you satisfied what women organizations have done in your area of residence? If any.

---

---

---

---

5. What kinds of projects were implemented in your area of residence by women organizations?

---

---

---

---

6. How often do they implement projects in your area of residence?

---

---

---

---

## APPENDIX II: TIME FRAME

No	Date	Task to execute	Duration
1	10 <sup>th</sup> - 24 <sup>th</sup> Feb 2011	Data collection	14 days
2	1 <sup>st</sup> -9 <sup>th</sup> April 2011	Coding and grouping data	8 days
3	5 <sup>th</sup> June- 27 <sup>th</sup> July 2011	Data analysis, presentation, interpretation and report writing	52 days

### APPENDIX III: BUDGET

Budget line	Budget description	Unit cost per day (\$)	Duration days	Total amount (\$)
1	Transport to the field and food	50	3	150
2	Flight tickets	360	3 times	1080
3	Printing, photocopying and binding	8	9	72
4	Communication and stationary			60
5	Assistant	15	3	45
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>				<b>1407</b>





KAMPALA  
INTERNATIONAL  
UNIVERSITY

Ggaba Road - Kansanga  
P.O. Box 20000, Kampala, Uganda  
Tel: +256- 41- 266813 / +256- 41-267634  
Fax: +256- 41- 501974  
E- mail: admin@kiu.ac.ug,  
Website: www.kiu.ac.ug

**OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR ACADEMICS  
SCHOOL OF POSTGRADUATE STUDIES AND RESEARCH**

22<sup>th</sup> July, 2010

Dear Sir/Madam,

**RE: REQUEST FOR INDANOUR ABDI NOOR, REG. NO.  
MDS/40129/91/DF TO CONDUCT RESEARCH IN YOUR INSTITUTION.**

The above mentioned is a bonafide student of Kampala International University pursuing a Masters of Arts in Development Studies.

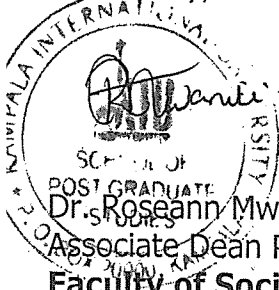
He is currently conducting a field research the title of which is "**Perception of the Community of Women Organizations in Borama District, Somaliland**". As part of his research work he has to collect relevant information through questionnaires, interviews and other relevant reading materials.

Your institution has been identified as a valuable source of information pertaining to his research project. The purpose of this letter is to request you to avail him with the pertinent information he may need.

Any information shared with him will be used for academic purposes only and we promise to share our findings with your institution. Rest assured the data you provide shall be kept with utmost confidentiality.

Any assistance rendered to him will be highly appreciated.

Yours truly,



Dr. Roseann Mwaniki  
Associate Dean Postgraduate Studies  
Faculty of Social Sciences.

## Languages

English: Fluent both speaking and writing.

Somali: Mother Language

Arabic: Fair

## References

Prof Mohamed Muse Jibril

Dean of the faculty of Business/Economics and Public Administration  
(Amoud University)

Tel: 4454027

Mr. Edwin

Dean of faculty of computing and ICT (Amoud University)

Tel: 4456955