

# Leveraging the Strength of Women in Peace Building and Promoting Gender Sensitivity in the National Programme on Disengaged Combatants

## Towards a New Life: Measuring Final Project Impact

Data were collected and analyzed in February 2020 by IOM Somalia and by the third-party monitoring team during the end-line evaluation, through in-person interviews with 150 women formerly associated with Al-Shabaab (AS) supported by the UN PBF funded project “Leveraging the Strength of Women in Peace Building and Promoting Gender Sensitivity in the National Programme on Disengaged Combatants”.

### 1. Program Achievements & Results

The final evaluation highlighted that this is the first project of its kind specifically targeting women formerly associated with al-Shabaab. Stakeholders interviewed noted that, since 2014 -when DDR programs commenced in Somalia, the project is credited with its unique structure – by targeting women - traditionally marginalized in all spheres of socio-economic aspects. As a matter of fact, only 27% of the beneficiary benefitted from other assistance before joining the DDR programme.

Key to the success of the programme is the effective reintegration of women formerly associated with al-Shabaab. By the end of November 2019, 150 women developed specific skills and acquired practical competencies and know-how. Following the six-month community-based rehabilitation, **93%** of the beneficiaries feel safer to move around in the community and **95%** feel others are treating them better and interact more with other member of the community. We consider this result as a positive improvement of the women’s sense of physical security, sense of belonging to the community and overall wellbeing.

Figure 1. Compared to six months ago, how do you feel about the following?

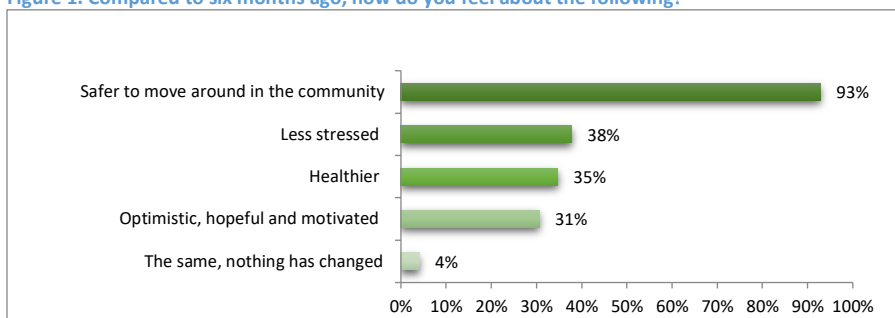
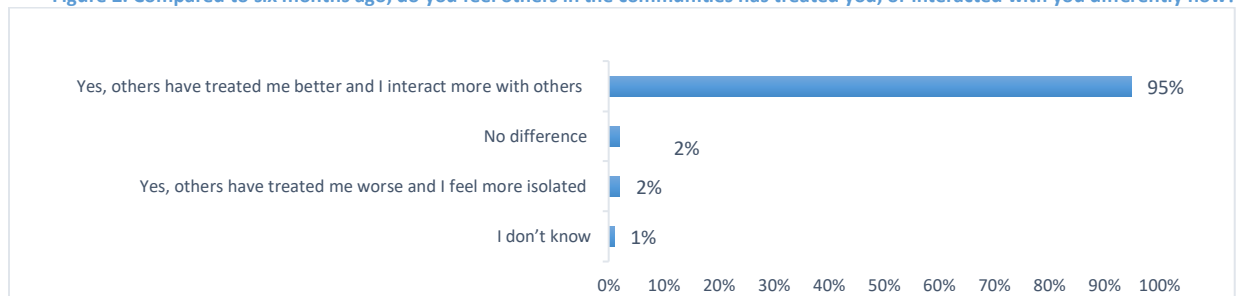


Figure 2. Compared to six months ago, do you feel others in the communities has treated you, or interacted with you differently now?



#### 1.1. Livelihood and psychosocial support

While it is a bit early to determine the long term sustainability of the intervention, the data collected show that women beneficiaries are applying the training and techniques they received. For instance, **48%** of the respondents indicated they will start businesses based on the vocational training they received using the 750USD start-up grant, while **42%** of the respondents will start a retail business.

**65%** of the beneficiaries indicated that with their current income they are able to sustain themselves and their families. This represents a remarkable improvement if compared to the baseline.

Figure 3. Baseline

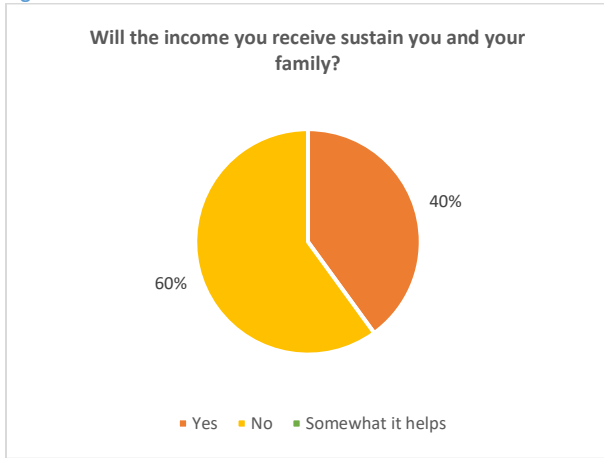
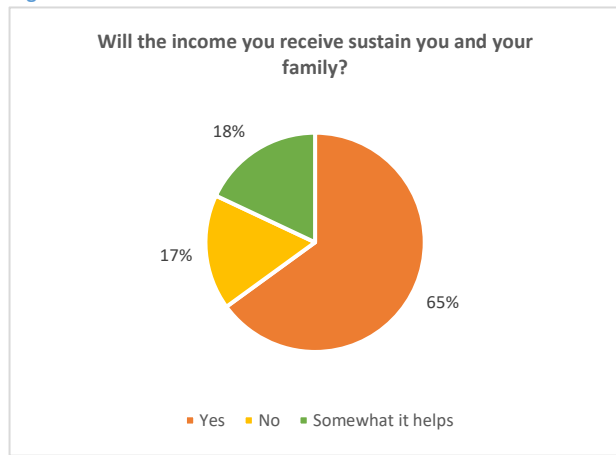


Figure 4. End line



## 1.2 Awareness on al-Shabaab Recruitment & Defection

Figure 5. Awareness on al-Shabaab Recruitment

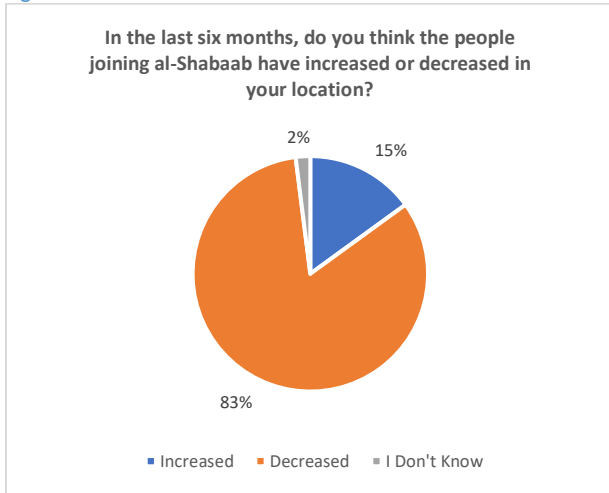
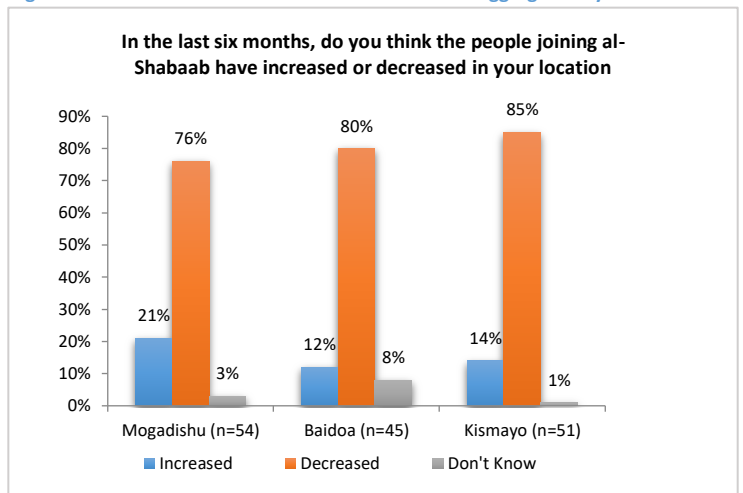
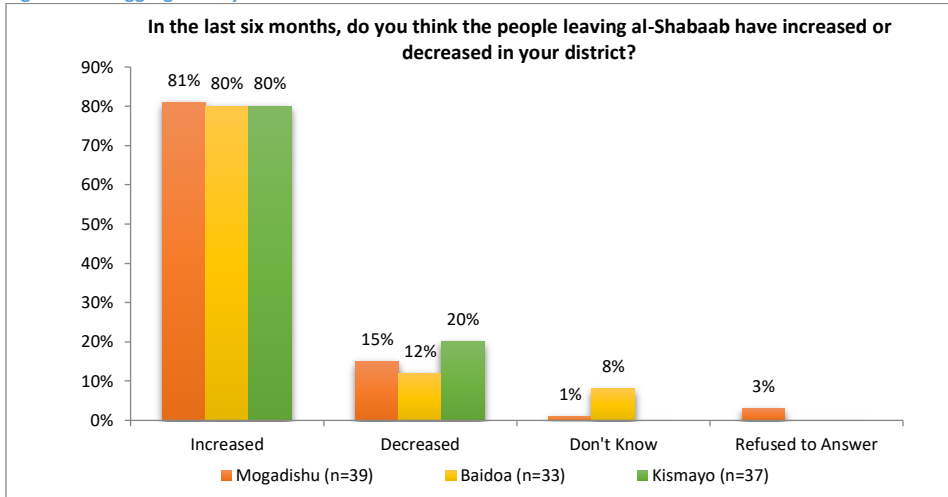


Figure 6. Awareness on al-Shabaab Recruitment - Disaggregated by location



With regard to the awareness on people leaving al-Shabaab, the majority of the respondents indicated a remarkable increase in the past six months. The increase in the number of people defecting from al-Shabaab was also reported by majority of KIIs interviewed.

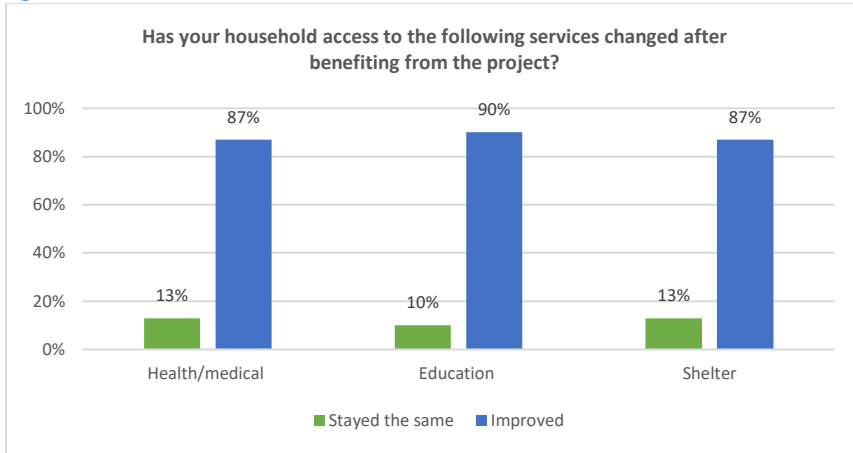
Figure 7. Disaggregated by location



### 1.3 Access to basic social services

60% of the beneficiary enrolled their children in school in the last six months, which is indicative of their enhanced access to social services at the project locations. This result was also echoed in the interviews with women CSO representatives in Baidoa and Mogadishu, who expressed the increased confidence amongst beneficiaries, which now enabled them to participate in and benefit from locally available services such as schools and health facilities. Overall access to basic social services has been reported to have remarkably improved since the project inception.

Figure 8. Access to basic services



## 2. Perception towards Female formerly associated with al-Shabaab

Key among the objectives of the project was to develop a positive perception towards women formerly associated with al-Shabaab. Analysis shows that there is a slight increase in the community positive perception.

Figure 9. Community perception – Baseline

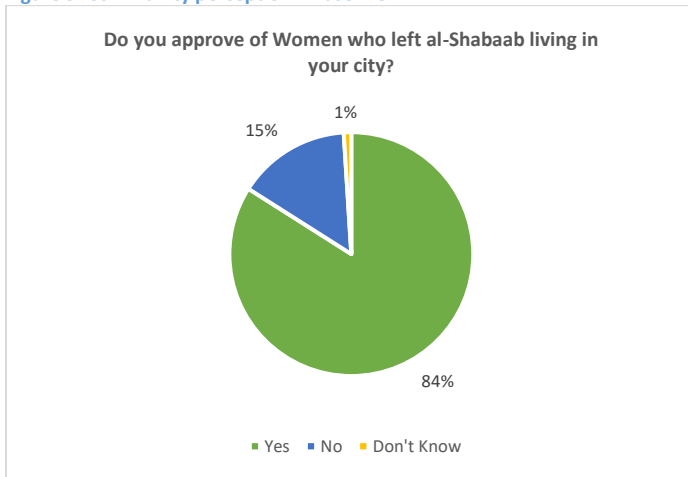
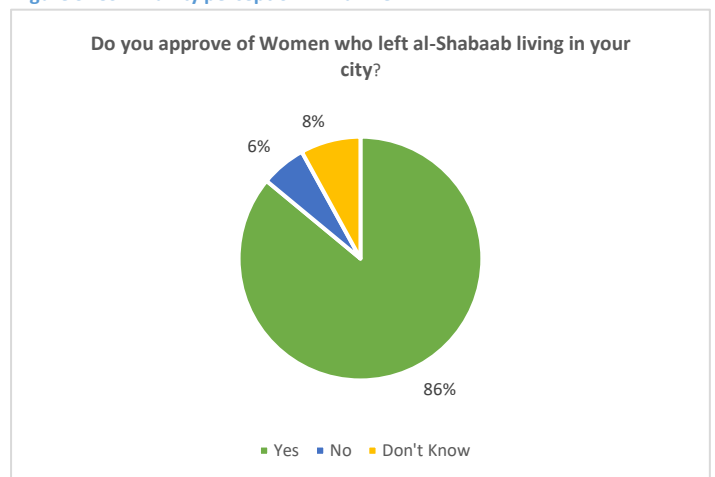


Figure 9. Community perception – End line

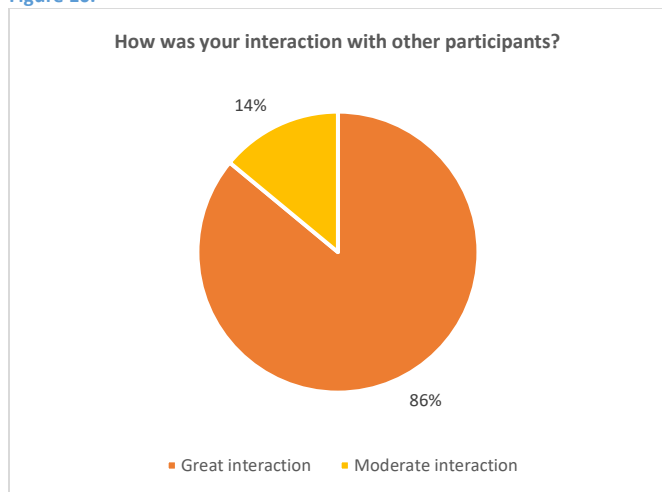


88% of all the respondents (beneficiary group and members of the community) agreed that a women formerly associated with al-Shabaab should be given the same employment opportunities as the rest of the communities, and 56% who felt comfortable employing or working together with them. Moreover, 88% of those interviewed approved of al-Shabaab defectors' children going to school with their children.

### 3. Community outreach and social reconciliation

The majority of the beneficiaries participated in community outreach and social reconciliation, out of which **86%** agreed that their interaction with other participants, including members of the community, was great.

Figure 10.



Finally, IOM’s capacity building component for the DRP and its partners on effective programme implementation is seen as a very relevant, in light of the low capacity that overtime faced local institutions. All the three implementing partners in Kismayo, Mogadishu and Baidoa were trained on Finance and monitoring and evaluation manuals, which were also translated in Somali for ease of understanding. The project also enhanced DRP’s capacity on gender programming through trainings.

### 4. Project Results Framework

Expected Results	Indicators	Baseline	Endline
<b>Outcome 1: Sustainable pathways for female defectors from Al-Shabaab and women-led outreach and social reconciliation initiatives lead to increased defection from Al-Shabaab and lowered recruitment, and thereby positive security gains for target communities, by the end of 2019</b>	<b>Outcome Indicator 1.1:</b> Increase in the percentage of target community members indicating lowered recruitment among young people into Al-Shabaab within the last year.	<b>83%</b> of the participants in the study indicated a decrease in youth joining Al-Shabaab within last 6 months.	<b>83%</b> of the participants in the study indicated a decrease in youth joining Al-Shabaab within the last 6 months.
	<b>Outcome Indicator 1.2:</b> Increase in the percentage of target community members indicating increased defection from Al-Shabaab within the last year.	<b>80%</b> of the study participants indicated an increase in defection from Al-Shabaab within last year	<b>80%</b> of the study participants indicated an increase of defection from Al-Shabaab within last year
<b>Output 1: Sustainable rehabilitation and reintegration of female defectors from Al-Shabaab through leveraging women-led community-based support networks</b>	<b>1.1.1.</b> Number of women (with or without dependents/households) supported with individualized care packages (age- disaggregated)	<b>150</b> women formerly associated with al-Shabaab	<b>150</b> women formerly associated with al-Shabaab
	<b>1.1.2</b> % of beneficiaries reporting having access to services that met their needs after they defected and returned to their communities.	<b>90%</b> of the beneficiary group enjoyed the same level of security and protection as the local population.	<b>93%</b> of the beneficiary group enjoyed the same level of security and protection as the local population.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Access to health/medical services: <b>85%</b></li> <li>- Education: <b>86%</b></li> <li>- Shelter: <b>83%</b>.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Access to health/medical services: <b>87%</b>,</li> <li>- Education: <b>90%</b></li> <li>- Shelter: <b>87%</b></li> </ul>
	1.1.3 % of beneficiaries reporting sustainable livelihoods after reintegrating back into their communities (age-disaggregated)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>36%</b> of beneficiaries aged 18 – 30 indicated income received is able to sustain them</li> <li>- <b>39%</b> of beneficiaries aged 31 – 40 indicated that income received is able to sustain them</li> <li>- <b>25%</b> of beneficiaries aged 41+ indicated that income received is able to sustain them</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>38%</b> of beneficiaries aged 18 – 30 indicated income received is able to sustain them</li> <li>- <b>34%</b> of beneficiaries aged 31 – 40 indicated that income received is able to sustain them</li> <li>- <b>28%</b> of beneficiaries aged 41+ indicated that income received is able to sustain them</li> </ul>
Output 2: Enhanced participation of women, including young women, in the Defector Rehabilitation Programme, and leadership role in outreach and community-based social reconciliation activities lead to inclusive peace building measures.	1.2.2 Number of community members (age and gender-disaggregated) that engage in communication, community outreach and social reconciliation events.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>19</b> female beneficiaries aged 18 – 30;</li> <li>- <b>8</b> aged 31 – 40;</li> <li>- <b>2</b> aged 41+</li> </ul> <p>engaged in communication, community outreach and social reconciliation events.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>20</b> female beneficiaries of aged 18 – 30;</li> <li>- <b>16</b> aged 31 – 40;</li> <li>- <b>13</b> aged 41+</li> </ul> <p>engaged in communication, community outreach and social reconciliation events.</p>
	1.2.3 % of target community members indicating positive perceptions regarding female Al-Shabaab defectors from different ages.	<p><b>84%</b> of all respondents expressed their approval of living with women formerly associated with AS.</p> <p><b>70%</b> of the non-beneficiary group expressed their approval of living with women formerly associated with AS.</p>	<p><b>86%</b> of all respondents expressed their approval of living with women formerly associated with AS.</p> <p><b>78%</b> of the non-beneficiary group expressed their approval of living with women formerly associated with AS.</p>
	1.2.4 % of beneficiaries reporting that they felt socially accepted upon returning back to their communities	<b>77%</b> of the beneficiary group felt unaccepted upon returning back to their community.	<b>95%</b> of the beneficiary group felt that, in the last six months other community members treated them better and that they interact more.
Output 3: Ministry of Internal Security Defector Rehabilitation Programme (DRP) capacity built to implement gender responsive and inclusive interventions.	1.3.1 Women CSOs and women leaders report constructive interaction with Government stakeholders on P/CVE.	Women CSOs reported low interaction with government stakeholders	Involvement of DRP and NISA in the process enhanced constructive interaction with Government stakeholders

	<p><b>1.3.2</b> Increase in knowledge of trained Government stakeholders on gender responsive policies and programmes</p>	<p>As with other institutions across government agencies, government stakeholders in the DDR program had low capacity, especially on gender programming.</p>	<p>DRP received training on gender programming and they had a gender focal person for the program in each of the three locations.</p>
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