



SaveHer initiative
Empower not harm



EmpowerRise Hub
innovate beyond limits

SaveHer Initiative – Launch & Enrollment Report

Date: 11 September 2025

Location: Kaxda District, Mogadishu

Organizer: EmpowerRise Hub – located in **Hodan District near Tarabunka**, Mogadishu

Slogan: *Innovate Beyond Limits*

Executive Summary

On 11th September 2025, EmpowerRise Hub launched the **SaveHer Initiative**, its flagship protection campaign to end FGM and GBV. The launch enrolled **100 girls aged 2–8 years identified as at risk of FGM** into safe space mentorship programs. Parents, fathers, and guardians participated in a community awareness session and pledged their commitment to protect their daughters.

This event marks a major step in building a protection network in Mogadishu that safeguards vulnerable girls while linking them to mentorship and psychosocial support. This activity contributes directly to the global 2030 vision to eliminate FGM and protect the dignity of all girls

Objectives

- Identify and enroll 100 at-risk girls into safe spaces.
- Engage parents, fathers, and guardians in community awareness.
- Build community pledges and accountability against FGM.
- Establish a foundation for mentorship and skills programs under SaveHer.

Outcomes & Impact

Quantitative:

- 100 girls identified and enrolled.
- 1 community session with over 100 participants (parents and guardians).

Qualitative:

- Parents publicly pledged to protect their daughters.
- Fathers' participation signaled stronger male engagement in prevention.
- Creation of a confidential database for long-term support and monitoring.

Voices from the Community

One father said, 'I will stand against FGM in my family and protect my daughters from harm.'

A mother shared, 'Today I understand the danger of FGM. My daughter deserves health and dignity, not pain.'

Another parent said, 'SaveHer gives us hope that our girls will grow up free from this harmful practice.'

Evidence Annex

- Attendance sheet of 100 girls enrolled (confidential).
- Attendance sheet of parents/guardians.
- Photos of girls holding "End FGM Now" stickers (blurred for public use).
- Signed parental pledges.
- **Donor Recognition**
- EmpowerRise Hub gratefully acknowledges **UNFPA Somalia** for enabling this activity, which ensures the protection and dignity of Somali girls.

Report: Fistula & Hygiene Awareness Session

SaveHer Initiative – EmpowerRise Hub

Date: 15 September 2025

Location: Kahda District, Mogadishu

Executive Summary

On 15th September 2025, EmpowerRise Hub, under its flagship *SaveHer Initiative*, conducted a **community awareness session on obstetric fistula and hygiene** in Kahda District. The session

brought together **30 participants**, including midwives, mothers, young women, and community representatives. The aim was to raise knowledge on the causes, prevention, and impact of obstetric fistula and to link it with harmful practices such as FGM and early marriage. This activity contributes directly to the global 2030 vision to eliminate FGM and protect the dignity of all girls

Objectives

- To increase community awareness of obstetric fistula and maternal health risks.
- To address the stigma and silence surrounding fistula.
- To strengthen preventive action by discouraging FGM and early marriage.
- To encourage safe motherhood practices and health-seeking behaviors.

Activities Conducted

1. **Health Education Presentations** – Midwives and health educators facilitated sessions on:
 - Causes of obstetric fistula.
 - Preventive measures (safe delivery, access to maternal healthcare).
 - Links between FGM, early marriage, and fistula.
 - Hygiene practices to safeguard women's reproductive health.
2. **Community Dialogue** – Participants engaged in open discussions, sharing personal and family experiences, and pledged to raise awareness in their households.
3. **Survivor Testimony** – A survivor of FGM and related complications gave a powerful account of her struggles, underscoring the urgent need to protect girls and women.

Outcomes and Impact

Quantitative Data

- **30 participants** attended (midwives, mothers, young women, and community leaders).

- **100%** of participants pledged to raise awareness within their households and communities.
- Awareness materials (IEC) were distributed to all attendees.

Qualitative Outcomes

- Midwives committed to integrating anti-FGM and fistula awareness into their health talks.
- Parents expressed gratitude for linking maternal health with community protection.
- The survivor's testimony deeply moved participants, sparking urgent calls to intensify advocacy.

Survivor Testimony

'After being cut as a girl, I struggled in my marriage because I could not fulfill my relations. My sister nearly died from excessive bleeding during FGM. Today, I still suffer during my period, and I fear complications during childbirth, even fistula. I cannot enjoy my marriage fully. Let us stop FGM it brings harm, not good.'

This testimony was a turning point in the session, shifting the dialogue from theory to lived experience and reinforcing the urgency of ending FGM.

Lessons Learned

- Survivor voices are critical in breaking community silence.
- Linking fistula to everyday experiences of marriage, childbirth, and menstruation makes the issue relatable.
- Engaging midwives ensures sustainability, as they are trusted community health actors.

Next Steps

- Follow-up with participants to monitor how awareness is spreading in their households.
- Organize small group mentorship sessions for young women on maternal health.
- Continue linking fistula awareness with broader *SaveHer Initiative* activities.

Acknowledgment

EmpowerRise Hub extends gratitude to **UNFPA Somalia** for supporting this life-saving awareness session under the SaveHer Initiative.

Report: Family & Community Dialogues

SaveHer Initiative – EmpowerRise Hub

Date: 18–19 September 2025

Location: Garasbaaley IDP Camp, Mogadishu

Executive Summary

EmpowerRise Hub, through its flagship *SaveHer Initiative*, held two days of **Family & Community Dialogues** in Garasbaaley IDP Camp. The dialogues brought together **36 participants** — including sheikhs, macalin dugsi, midwives, elders, parents, youth, and men to confront harmful practices, break silence, and strengthen collective responsibility to end FGM and GBV.

To extend the impact beyond the dialogue halls, **SaveHer stickers** were placed on **bajaaj (tuk-tuks)** across Mogadishu, ensuring that the campaign’s message “*SaveHer. End FGM*” continues to circulate daily and reach thousands of residents. This activity contributes directly to the global 2030 vision to eliminate FGM and protect the dignity of all girls

Objectives

- To strengthen collective responsibility within the community to protect girls.
- To engage religious leaders, educators, and parents in dialogue around harmful practices.
- To build bridges between safe space advocacy and public street-level awareness.
- To contribute towards the 2030 vision of ending FGM.

Activities Conducted

1. Two-Day Dialogue Sessions

- **Day 1 (18 Sept):** Awareness session with religious leaders, macalin dugsi, and male community members.
- **Day 2 (19 Sept):** Focused dialogue with mothers, midwives, and youth, building on discussions from Day 1.

2. BajaaJ Sticker Campaign

- SaveHer stickers carrying slogans such as *‘End FGM Now’* and *‘Badbaadi Aayada’* were placed on **10 bajaaj**.
- These vehicles circulate widely in Mogadishu, creating **mobile advocacy** that reaches thousands daily.

Outcomes and Impact

Quantitative Data

- **36 participants** engaged across two days:
 - 26 male participants (sheikhs, elders, community leaders, youth).
 - 10 female participants (mothers, midwives, youth).
- **10+ bajaaj** mobilized with SaveHer stickers.
- Estimated outreach: **thousands of daily impressions** across Mogadishu.

Qualitative Outcomes

- Sheikhs and macalin dugsi emphasized that FGM has no basis in religion, helping dispel myths.
- Mothers and fathers jointly pledged to protect their daughters.

- The sticker campaign connected the **local dialogue** with **city-wide visibility**, ensuring the conversation travels beyond the venue.

Community Quotes

'As a father, I now see clearly that protecting my daughter is my duty not harming her.' Male participant, Day 1.

'Islam does not ask us to harm our daughters. Today, I will speak in my mosque against FGM.' Sheikh participant.

'Every bajaaj that carries this message is saving a girl in Mogadishu.' Female participant, Day 2.

Lessons Learned

- Multi-stakeholder engagement (religious + community + health) is essential for credibility.
- Fathers' voices are critical in reinforcing family pledges.
- Extending advocacy beyond event venues (via bajaaj) multiplies reach and visibility.

Next Steps

- Conduct additional dialogues in other IDP camps and districts.
- Scale the bajaaj campaign to 100+ vehicles for broader reach.
- Engage more youth leaders as campaign ambassadors.

Acknowledgment

EmpowerRise Hub extends gratitude to **UNFPA Somalia** for supporting these impactful dialogues under the SaveHer Initiative.



