



SEMI
ARID
RESILIENCE
NETWORK

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Building resilience
through community
— based approaches

website: <https://semiaridresiliencenetwork.org/>

ABOUT THE ORGANIZATION

Semi-Arid Resilience Network(SARN) is National NGO registered under NGO coordination board. SARN has well established structures that informs decisions and partnership for implementation of community-based programs while linking the programs to the County and National integrated development plans. The organization has 9 years of extensive work on Social Protection, Youth, Peace and security, Digital peace building, youth transformation agenda, Governance and policy, Alternative livelihoods, research, partnership and knowledge management. SARN is a member of Gender & Children Technical Working Group that Coordinates SRH, GBV and social protection for Women and Girls in Garissa County.

Governance

Semi Arid Resilience Network is governed by its Board of Directors (BoD). The Board is the key policy making and governance body of the organization and works independently. Formulates and approves policies and organizational systems and evaluates the overall Performance of Semi-Arid Resilience Network on period basis. The BoD consists of eight members (Both male and female) and is headed by its chairperson. The organization board of directors comprises of development professionals, intellectuals, academicians, activists and media persons. The Executive Director of Semi-Arid Resilience Network serves the board as the secretary. The Board works in the guidelines of the Board Policies Manual and SARN constitution

VISION

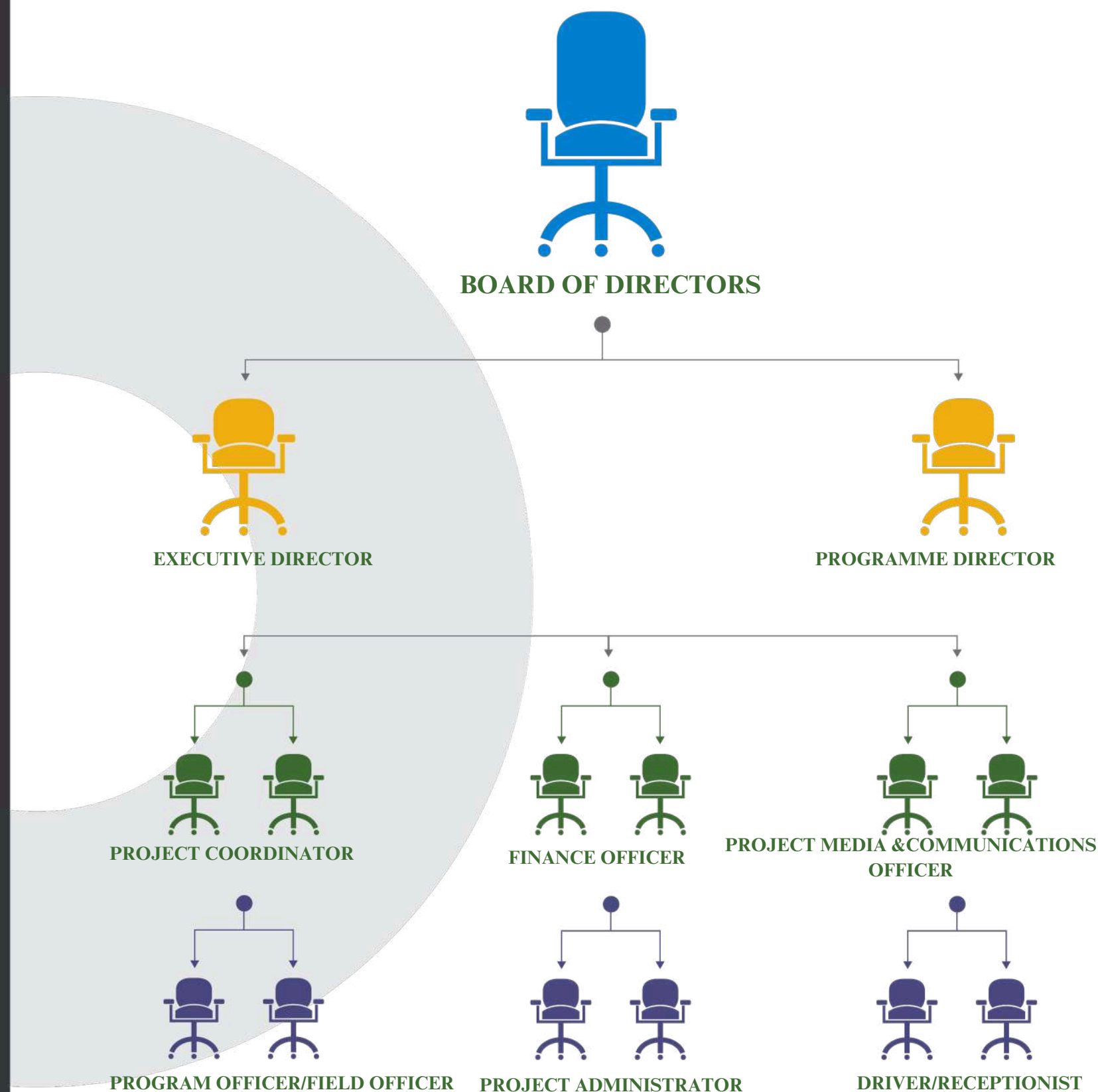
To be a leading institution in promoting the resilience of community structures

MISSION

Promoting community driven resilience and sustainable well being through community based approaches



ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



Geographical Focus

The organization overall geographic focus is Garissa County, Wajir, Mandera, Isiolo and Tana River

Focus pillars

- √: **Gender and social protection**
- √: **FGM advocacy**
- √: **Sexual and Reproductive Health**
- √: **Youth and Digital learning Climate Action, Adaption and**
- √: **resilience building**
- √: **Livelihood and community resilience building**
- √: **Research, partnership and knowledge management**

SARN compliments the efforts of local and Development actors in addressing various development initiatives including Humanitarian response and needs, Health, peacebuilding, conflict prevention, leadership and governance, civic education, and human rights, Digital learning, Gender and social inclusion and protection The organization fulfills these roles through capacity-building initiatives, networking, dialogue, research, knowledge development and dissemination, communication, information sharing, and advocacy.

Local partnership established

- * Options consultancy under The Girl Generation -Africa Led Movement program -2024-2025
- * USAID-RLA- Joint work planning between USAID IPs and County Government 2024-2025
- * UNDP- Promoting peace and inclusive development 2024
- * US State Department, Global Centre of Cooperative Security, - 6months-2019
- * GIZ /fin church aid-2022
- * United States Institute for Peace (USIP) -2022-2023
- * International Republican Institute (IRI) 2023
- * Ministry of Youth and Gender in Kenya 2021

Social protection

Donor – FCDO- ALM programs through Options consultancy

Programme Title: The Girl Generation-Support to the Africa-led Movement (TGG-ALM) to End FGM/C'

Grant period: August 2024-August 2025

Programme Activities

- Survivor psychosocial support
- Mother to Mother support
- Mother to daughter dialogues
- Cutter dialogues
- Male youth dialogues
- Religious leaders dialogue



The objective of support to the Africa-led Movement (ALM) to end FGM/C' Programme is to provide small grants to build the capacity of grassroots women-led, girl-led, women's rights and youth-led organizations and activists to end FGM/C'. It intends to strengthen the Africa-led movement to end FGM/C by resourcing and supporting those most affected by FGM/C and other forms of gender-based violence – women and girls at the grassroots – to lead change within their communities, countries and globally.



Supporting Partnership for Resilience and Economic Growth (PREG)

The overall objective of this grant is to design and facilitate the next phase of the Joint Work Planning co-creation process for Financial Year 2024/2025 and FY 2025/2026 between USAID Implementing Partners, County Governments and Ward Development Committees, in Garissa County, in close collaboration with the Kenya School of Government (KSG) and Council of Governors (CoG).

Governance and Accountability

USAID-RLA project

Grant period- 12months (OCT 2024- OCT 2025)

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√: County Governments have a unique responsibility to lead development at the local level. Their efforts cannot be successful without the inclusive and equitable participation of all actors. Recognizing this, the County Integrated Development Plans (CIDPs) call for collective action by stakeholders to implement long-lasting development solutions. These include the efforts by National and County Governments, development partners, civil society organizations, the private sector, local media stakeholders, and communities who all have different and complementary roles to play in the collective impact of sustainable development. Such an extensive portfolio elevates the importance of co- planning, co-implementation, and co-monitoring (3Cs) and timely information-sharing across projects, to reduce duplication of partners' efforts and leveraging resources. √: USAID Resilience Learning Activity (RLA) has been at the forefront of collaborating with the County Governments in implementing the 3Cs through a Joint Work Plan model and thinking collaboratively to identify points of intersection within the development activities. The County Government spearheads this process through the Department of Economic Planning or any other appointed department.

PEACE BUILDING AND DIGITAL LEARNING.

PROJECT NAME: PROMOTING PEACE AND INCLUSIVE DEVELOPMENT IN BORDERLAND COUNTIES IN NORTH-EASTERN KENYA

Donor: UNDP Project

Focus: To maximize the impact and broaden the application of digital peace building knowledge and inclusive development

Duration: 6Months 2024

Expected outcomes

- » Successful and meaningful collaboration between communities and security agencies, and mutual engagement
- » Collaboration of government and non-government entities (at both national and subnational levels) engaged in this project
- » The digital and data platforms that will be strengthened/established by the project will be utilized by all.
- » Development projects will be flexible to review their plans and programmes to incorporate the needs and priorities of the communities.
- » The meaningful engagement of communities in planning and implementation of development and peacebuilding intervention will make these more conflict sensitive and contributing to Accountability outcomes.

Past years programs

Peace and governance 1. Project name: strengthening Governance to Stabilize Conflict-Affected Areas Year: 2023 Donor: International Republican Institute



1. As result of trust building and conflict sensitivity workshops, 30 local peace committee capacity and knowledge on conflict sensitivity approaches and joint peace efforts were enhanced, enabling them to provide locally based measures mitigating the intercommunal conflicts, resulting in the return of Goats and camels stolen from both sides.
2. Through inter-communal dialogues, SARN sensitised 200 community members on inter-communal relationships and this reduced community mistrust and attitudes towards each other. Promoting positive attitudes among the Borana and Somalis in Sericho and Modogashe.
3. Using Sports, Arts, and culture as creative approaches, 8 (110-member Youth teams) and 8 Women's groups (10 members each) were supported to increase intercommunal connectivity, shared identity, and enhancing culture as a source of resilience. This reduced community perceptions, divisions, and US vs. them narratives.
4. The design of the community peace actions (CPAs), supported the 30 peace committee members, county and National representatives a platform to have communal-led conversations in the identification of key drivers, and local-based solutions. Increasing legitimacy of local participation on peacebuilding on conflict resolutions and this increased level of ownership of joint peace actions with the local actors.
5. Increased working linkages between the local peace committee and government agencies through the institutionalization of the formulated community peace actions and this informed the need to lobby the integration of local peace actions into the devolved working documents in building resilience against the push and pull factors of conflicts.



On 2021-2022, in partnership with the Finn church aid, SARN through the support of GIZ on the IDOVE Project



Grants

Implemented a project in Mandera-Somalia border community and security officials in understanding and deep-diving on push and pull factors that drives youth vulnerability in joining the extremist networks that had impacted negatively on the community's social and economic environment.

The project aimed to strengthen community-led, peacebuilding and countering violent extremism support to prevent youth radicalization, increase trust and collaboration between community members, local government, and security actors,

The activities included training of Trainers for key community influencers and capacity building for civilian government actors and community members in drying the pool of mistrust and on this active community forums established to coordinate local peace actors' initiative.

The project was on under the IDOVE programs in Somalia-Ethiopia and AU states



Mandera, like many other parts of Northern Kenya, is experiencing a severe threat of violence from the terrorist group, Al-Shabaab. The situation is exacerbated by the porous border that enables gun smuggling. Another major issue in the border region is the recruitment of young people join these extremist groups. Coupled with unemployment, lack of government services, and an enabling environment for violence, youth are becoming pushed to pledge allegiance and join Al-Shabaab. The border communities have appealed to both governments to prevent and counter-violence extremism. Instead, the use of excessive force by security agencies has further aggravated an already fragile relationship with the local communities. Human rights-based approaches to countering violent extremism are urgently needed. Furthermore, safe dialogue spaces, security, and the community are needed to address widely held misconceptions about one another to improve the relationship.

In addition, climate change has caused prolonged droughts and unpredictable rainfall patterns which have resulted in climate vulnerability disrupting livelihoods and exacerbating existing issues. This has led to more people abandoning their homes in search of better livelihoods and opportunities in the borderland towns and overseas. In light of these challenges, the project aimed to:

1. Strengthen community-led, CVE-relevant support and prevent further radicalization of at-risk communities in the Mandera context; and
2. Increase trust and collaboration between community members and relevant local government and security actors.

<https://www.peacemakersnetwork.org/semi-arid-health-initiative/>

Project :Empowering young Madrassa Sheikhs

against Violence Extremism

Duration: 12months

During our support partnership with the Global Centre on Cooperative Security, we implemented a social cohesion project that was aimed at creating a conversation between the madrasa students and their religious clerics to have ownership of their involvement in community peace-building initiatives while linking and engaging security actors and using the platform to reduce extrajudicial killings against the religious actors and maintain the rule of law for the judicial process, also through the project we established a sports activities that was informed that the religious actors and the local youth have the potential to engage and build peace and social cohesion despite the existing ideological narratives.



(2019-2020)

Project Achievements

- * 200 Madrassa youth open discussion on the dangers of violent extremism and thus break the silence over violent extremism within Islamic circles in Garissa.
https://drive.google.com/drive/u/1/folders/1tLE_mBIYt8aIckKJbxxJRkYDlSI0YoRu
- * Supported one monthly talk shows for four (4) months on thematic issues as they relate to countering violent extremism
- * Held one (1) open plenary discussion on issues of key importance to Madrasa youth on countering violent extremism that informed the discussion on the local push and pull factors e
- * Design and developed messages both in English and Arabic passed through social media targeting Madrasa youth on countering violent extremism to communicate messages targeting Madrasa youth on countering violent extremism
- * Supported Madrasa youth in holding 'Ramadan' football final match through provision of sporting gear and trophies accelerated psychosocial engagement
- * 100 Madrasa youth undertake community service event as per their group's plan and supported the local children center to mentor against the PCVE.

<https://www.globalcenter.org/resource/fostering-youth-led-civil-society-organizations-in-kenya-and-nigeria/>

Strengthening community networks and structures on Covid-19 Response-2021:

Through the Search for common ground with funding from the European Union

Engaged the community in Fafi and Hulugho on conflict-sensitive approaches during the COVID-19 pandemic when there has been some preventive enforcement, surveillance, and movement restrictions and police brutality and therefore it was in this context that SARN in partnership with search for common ground with EU funding had implemented dialogue, capacity building for the community influencers in mapping community existing risks through early warning and early response mechanism and engaging community and security actors through community policing forums that and this engagement result improved community working linkages with the security enforcement officers as they established common ground understanding that they have a shared common goals against the pandemic.



Small grants

2018-2019: In partnership with the Ministry of youth and Gender under the National Affirmative Action Funds, SARN had the opportunity to engage community members in the Amuma and Ali-Njugur border with the understanding in building self-reliance skills, local livelihood activities and capacity to improve their ability to access available funding and local government opportunities and therefore women and girls were able to have understanding on the need to engage income generating activities to reduce their economic vulnerability as a result of the climatic shocks, drought's and environmental impacts that is also related to conflict triggers 2016-2017: the organization had partnered with Arigatou international on regional peace actions, it was young leaders from Africa on peace action forums that informed on regional peace and security resilience, SARN was funded on Youth and women role in peace building and conflict sensitivity while adopting youth and women safe spaces and dialogue engagement