

Nina Toija and Rauha Vesterinen

Development of Community Participation in Somaliland:
Implications of International Solidarity Foundation's Development
Co-operation in Somaliland

Helsinki Metropolia University of Applied Sciences

Bachelor of Social Services

Degree Programme In Social Services

Thesis

Date 17.8.2015

Authors Title Number of Pages Date	Nina Toija and Rauha Vesterinen Development of Community Participation in Somaliland: Implications of International Solidarity Foundation's Develop- ment Co-operation in Somaliland 38 + 3 appendices Autumn 2015
Degree	Bachelor of Social Services
Degree Programme	Degree Programme in Social Services
Specialisation option	Degree Programme in Social Services
Instructor(s)	Mai Salmenkangas, Senior Lecturer
<p>International Solidarity Foundation (ISF) is a Finnish development co-operation organization, which aims at promoting gender equality, creating sustainable and decent work and livelihood, and strengthening civil societies. These aims are aligned with the policies of the Finnish development co-operation. The objective of this study was to explore how the work ISF and their partner organizations have done in Somaliland has enhanced participation in the local communities. The perspective for this study is derived from the viewpoints of the land co-ordinator of ISF and representatives of their partner organizations in Somaliland. The conclusions from this study were used as a background analysis for ISF's upcoming action plan for the years 2016-2018.</p> <p>The approach in this study was qualitative. Computer mediated communication was employed for the collection of data. The questionnaire was sent to representatives of ISF's partner organizations, and ten responses were received. In addition to this, the land co-ordinator for ISF in Somaliland was interviewed via Skype.</p> <p>The Ladder of Citizen Participation (Arnstein) and the Power Cube (Gaventa), which examine interactional citizen participation and the dimensions of power, formed the theoretical framework for the study. The data obtained for this study showed that the presence of ISF and their partner organizations has affected the levels of citizen participation, especially that of women. New forms of participation have opened up democratic decision making fora that strengthen citizenship and self-determination in the communities the projects were implemented in.</p> <p>Based on the results, ISF's community based approach has had the desired effect on many levels during co-operation with their partner organizations. Participation and gender equality have increased, as have the possibilities of community members to affect their own living environment. Nonetheless, it seems that project operations could be clarified and the recommendations of representatives of partner organizations could be recognized to a greater extent.</p>	
Keywords	development co-operation, participation, power, equality, community, beneficiary

<p>Tekijät Otsikko</p> <p>Sivumäärä Aika</p>	<p>Nina Toija and Rauha Vesterinen Development of community participation in Somaliland: Implications of International Solidarity Foundation's develop- ment collaboration in Somaliland</p> <p>38 sivua + 3 liitettä 10.8.2015</p>
<p>Tutkinto</p>	<p>Sosionomi</p>
<p>Koulutusohjelma</p>	<p>Sosiaaliala</p>
<p>Ohjaajat</p>	<p>Mai Salmenkangas, lehtori</p>
<p>Suomen kehityspolitiikassa ja -yhteistyössä korostetaan kolmea painopistettä, jotka ovat eriarvoisuuden poistaminen; sukupuolten välisen tasa-arvon edistäminen ja ilmastonmuutoksen ehkäisy. Solidaarisuuden tavoitteet; sukupuolten välisen tasa-arvon, ihmisarvoisen toimeentulon ja kansalaisyhteiskuntia vahvistavan työn kehittäminen, linjaavat näitä painopisteitä. Tämän tutkimuksen tarkoitus oli selvittää onko Solidaarisuuden ja heidän yhteistyöjärjestöjensä toimet Somalimaassa edistäneet osallisuutta niissä yhteisöissä joissa he toimivat. Tutkimuksen näkökulma on johdettu Solidaarisuuden maakoordinaattorin ja kumppanijärjestöjen edustajien näkemyksistä. Johtopäätökset tässä tutkimuksessa ovat olleet tausta-analyysinä Solidaarisuuden tulevassa toimintasuunnitelmassa vuosille 2016–2018.</p> <p>Teoreettisena viitekehyksenä tässä tutkimuksessa ovat osallisuus yhteiskunnan eri tasoilla (Ladder of Citizen Participation, Arnstein) sekä valtasuhteet (Power Cube, Gaventa). Tätä tutkimusta varten kerätty data osoittaa että Solidaarisuuden ja yhteistyöjärjestöjen läsnäolo on vaikuttanut kansalaisten, erityisesti naisten, osallistumisen tasoon. Osallistumisen uudet muodot ovat avanneet demokraattisia päätöksentekoaareenoita, jotka vahvistavat kansalaisuutta ja itsemääräämisoikeutta yhteisöissä joissa projekteja toteutetaan.</p> <p>Tämän tutkimuksen lähestymistapa oli kvalitatiivinen. Tietokonevälitteistä kommunikaatiota (CMC) käytettiin tiedonkeruuseen. Yhteistyöjärjestöjen edustajille lähetettiin kyselylomake ja vastauksia saatiin yhteensä yksitoista. Tämän lisäksi Somalimaan maakoordinaattoria haastateltiin Skypen välityksellä. Tutkimuksen tarkoitus oli selvittää miten Solidaarisuus ja yhteistyöjärjestöt ovat vaikuttaneet kansalaisten osallisuuteen yhteisöissä joissa projekteja toteutetaan.</p> <p>Tulosten perusteella Solidaarisuuden yhteisölähtöinen lähestymistapa on vaikuttanut toivotulla tavalla. Osallisuus ja sukupuolten välinen tasa-arvo ovat lisääntyneet. Myös yhteisöjen jäsenten mahdollisuus vaikuttaa omaan elinympäristöönsä on kohonnut. Siitä huolimatta projektien toiminnan selkiyttäminen vaikuttaisi olevan tarpeen ja yhteistyöjärjestöjen edustajien suosituksia voitaisiin kuunnella enemmän.</p>	
<p>Avainsanat</p>	<p>kehitysyhteistyö, osallisuus, valtasuhteet, tasa-arvo, yhteisö, edunsaaja</p>

Contents

1	Introduction	2
2	Context	4
2.1	International Solidarity Foundation (ISF)	4
2.2	Partner Organizations and Projects	4
2.2.1	Developing food security	5
2.2.2	Prevention of female genital mutilation (FGM)	5
2.2.3	Prevention of gender based violence (GBV)	6
2.3	Somaliland shortly	7
3	Theoretical approaches	9
3.1	The Ladder of Participation	10
3.2	Power Cube	13
3.2.1	Dimensions of Power	13
3.2.2	The Power Cube	13
3.2.3	Places of power	14
3.2.4	Spaces of power	14
3.2.5	Forms of power	15
4	Implementation	16
4.1	Forming the questionnaire and interview	16
4.2	Methodology	17
4.2.1	Qualitative research on-line	18
4.2.2	Cultural sensitivity and establishing rapport	18
4.3	Thematic analysis	19
4.3.1	Analysing the data	19
5	Results	21
5.1	Participation	21
5.1.1	Community participation	22
5.1.2	Women's participation	23
5.1.3	Leaders' roles	26
5.2	Transparency	27
5.2.1	Information sharing	27
5.2.2	Recruitment and Organizational Transparency	29

5.3	Political level	29
5.4	Autonomy	30
6	Conclusions	31
6.1	Levels of participation	32
6.2	Dimensions of power	33
6.3	Recommendations for ISF	35
7	Discussion	36
7.1	Limitations	36
7.2	Ethical considerations and reliability	36
7.3	Closing words	37
	References	39
	Appendices:	
	Appendix 1. Questionnaire	
	Appendix 2. Questions for land co-ordinator	
	Appendix 3. Introductory letter with instructions	

List of acronyms

DC	Development co-operation
ISF	International Solidarity Foundation
NGO	Non-governmental organization
FGM	Female genital mutilation
GBV	Gender based violence

1 Introduction

We live in a world where one part of the population lives in abundance consuming most of the natural resources, while the other part suffers from destitution. This imbalance is unsustainable in the long run and contributes to many other problems facing the world today (Kääriäinen, p. 28, 2014). We wanted to gain a deeper understanding of these issues, since we both aim at working in an international setting. What better way to gain this knowledge than to conduct a study in the context of development co-operation.

The public debate surrounding development co-operation (DC) involves statements about its effectiveness and whether or not it really works. Opponents of development co-operation assert that it has no effect on reducing poverty and therefore, aid in its contemporary form should be ceased (Kääriäinen, pp. 1-5, 2014). Advocates of it feel that it indeed has made a difference, especially on grass root level, and that there should be more aid given to the third world countries (Moyo, pp. 38, 2009). Many people call for a change in how DC is operated. New models should be developed to make it more egalitarian between donor and receiving countries (Degnbol-Martinussen&Engberg-Pedersen, pp. 285-315, 2003). Grass root level actions are in the heart of these new operations (Cornwall, p. 77-78, 2002).

Development co-operation (DC) can simply be explained as financial and non-financial aid given by developed countries to developing countries (Moyo, p 7-9, 2009). That being the case, Alonso and Glennie (2015) offer four criteria to define development co-operation (DC) to a greater extent. Firstly, they characterize it as being a specific kind of aid that aims at supporting national and international development agendas. Secondly, it should never be profit driven, even though the ultimate goal may concern furthering a country's ability to access free markets. Thirdly as a consequence of existing structural inequalities, DC is a practice of positive discrimination for developing countries to enable them to develop further. Lastly, DC is about collaboration between international donor and recipient countries. Thus, development should not be defined only by the people in the delivering end of DC, but recipient countries need to have a real ownership and independence in deciding their developmental needs, as well (Alonso & Glennie, 2015.)

After decades of Development Co-operation's inception great deal of progress has occurred. DC has proceeded from financial aid through industrial investments, privatization and consumerism to participatory democracy (Degnbol-Martinussen&Engberg-Pedersen, 2003; Cornwall, 2002; Kääriäinen, 2014; Moyo, 2009). What seems to be evident is the fact that donor countries nowadays refrain from selfish motives of the early days of DC moving towards a genuine eagerness to involve beneficiaries in matters that concern them. A true partnership has emerged in the scene of DC. The idea of it is to involve people in the actions that concern them. (Cornwall, pp. 77-78, 2002)

At the turn of the century a United Nations summit declared the Millennium Development Goals which went on to set the stage for international development goals for the 21st century (Kääriäinen, 2014, pp.66-67). These goals were eradication of extreme poverty and hunger; achievement of universal primary education; promotion of gender equality; reduction of child mortality; improvement of maternal health; combating HIV/AIDS, malaria, and other diseases; ensuring environmental sustainability; and developing a global partnership for development (UN, 2010).

Finland is also committed to these principles. The aims of Finnish development co-operation are promotion of gender equality, reduction of inequality and promotion of climate sustainability. Finnish development co-operation organizations work in accordance with these principles. (Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland, 2015.)

Participatory ways of acting are also a core of the operations of International Solidarity Foundation (ISF), the working life partner of this thesis, (Solidaarisuus, 2013). The idea for this study was derived from the need of the working life partner to examine the impact of their work in Somaliland. International Solidarity Foundation (ISF) will publish a new action plan this year and for that reason they wanted to explore the concepts of strengthening civil society participation and gender equality further. As a consequence, the aim of this thesis was to explore how the work ISF and their partner organizations have done in Somaliland have enhanced participation in the local communities.

This study was qualitative. An open ended questionnaire and a Skype interview were the data collection methods. The focus was on interactional citizen participation and dimensions of power. The Ladder of Participation (Arnstein, 1969) and the Power Cube (Gaventa, 2006) formed the theoretical framework for the study.

2 Context

In this chapter the working life partner, International Solidarity Foundation (ISF), for this thesis will be introduced. The partner organizations of and the projects implemented in Somaliland will also be included in this introduction, as well as Somaliland's history and background.

2.1 International Solidarity Foundation (ISF)

The International Solidarity Foundation (ISF) is a Finnish development co-operation organization which was founded in 1970. The aims of the organization are: *“to further and promote gender equality, to create sustainable and decent work and livelihood and to strengthen civil societies.”* The values guiding their work are solidarity, equality, equity, human rights and participation. ISF is a partner of the Finnish Partnership Agreement Scheme funded by the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland. (Solidaarisuus, 2013.)

ISF implements long term development co-operation projects in Nicaragua, Uganda, Kenya and Somaliland. The organization works together with local communities and organizations all the way from the planning stages through to implementation and monitoring. This community based approach is essential in how ISF and their partner organizations operate. The presence of a Finnish worker and the collaboration with local organizations ensure that the work strengthens local communities sustainably. The main goals of the projects are to improve the living conditions of the poorest sectors of society, with the emphasis on strengthening gender equality and women's participation in their communities. (Solidaarisuus, 2013.)

2.2 Partner Organizations and Projects

ISF has five partner organizations in Somaliland. From hence forth these will be referred to as *partner organization/s* throughout this paper. Four of them took part in this study and will be introduced next.

Agriculture Development Organization (ADO) works in developing sustainable food security and gaining better living conditions for the underprivileged (ADO, 2013).

Candlelight for Health and Education (CLHE) works on livelihood and environmental programs, education and health programs in Somaliland (CLHE, 2015).

Network against FGM/C in Somaliland (NAFIS) is an umbrella organization for NGO's who work against female genital mutilation (FGM) and advocate for this cause on national level (NAFIS, 2015).

Somaliland Youth Development Organization (SOYDAVO) works to empower especially women, youth and children to pursue a better life for themselves. This is done through education and grass root level implementation of projects. (SOYDAVO, 2015.)

The partner organizations are committed to the goals and aims of ISF. They work together with ISF to further these goals through development programs, which will be introduced next.

2.2.1 Developing food security

The food security on Somaliland is one of the weakest in the world due to poverty, feeble farming conditions, weak infrastructure and lack of education in food production. The projects that ISF and their partner organizations ADO and CLHE have started are targeted to help better the livelihoods of small farmers. The partner organizations educate the farmers in agriculture and help generate new ways of income in the area. Ensuring equal opportunities for men and women is also an important part of these projects. (Solidaarisuus, 2015b.)

2.2.2 Prevention of female genital mutilation (FGM)

In Somaliland female genital mutilation (FGM) is still a custom. FGM is a serious offence against human rights and exposes girls and women to lifelong physical and psychological health hazards. ISF and their partner organizations CLHE and NAFIS work to prevent FGM. (Solidaarisuus 2015d.)

ISF and CLHE have long worked together in this sector. They have arranged information sessions where the social and health hazards of FGM are discussed among members of communities. The work done by CLHE has been effective largely due to the close relationship with the communities, and the holistic approach which includes all members of the communities. Due to these actions discussions about FGM have been initiated on different levels of society and it is no longer seen as only a women's issue, but as something that affects the wellbeing of the communities and society at large. (Solidaarisuus 2015a; 2015d.)

NAFIS is a new companion for ISF. They work together to help NGO's who work in the area of FGM network with each other. Advocating on national level is also one of NAFIS' important roles. (Solidaarisuus, 2015d.)

2.2.3 Prevention of gender based violence (GBV)

The prevention of gender based violence is one of the more recent projects started by ISF and their partner organization SOYDAVO (Solidaarisuus 2015e).

The aim of the project is to decrease GBV, especially sexual violence. At the moment there are practically no laws in Somaliland to prevent GBV. It is still closely related to traditions and attitudes and most GBV cases are dealt with by clan elders. This usually means that the women are in a weak juridical position. Most of GBV still goes unreported or unpunished. (Solidaarisuus 2015e.)

SOYDAVO concentrates its activities on co-operation with and within the communities. They work together with local authorities, from officials and clan elders to religious leaders, to find ways to diminish GBV. In their work they emphasize the importance of GBV prevention in the context of the whole community. Especially youth and their parents are invited to discuss these issues. In addition to these trainings, support persons are educated to follow up and report to SOYDAVO about the progress in the communities. (Solidaarisuus 2015a; 2015e)

Further on in this paper these will be referred to as *the project/s*.

Other definitions used in this paper are:

The community/ies which refers to the communities in Somaliland where ISF and their partner organizations are operating in, unless specified otherwise.

The beneficiary/ies refers to those community members who take part directly in the projects implemented by partner organizations.

Instead, *stakeholder/s* refers to the community members who are affected by the projects but do/does not take directly part in them.



Picture 1 Map of Somaliland, Sam Voron (2009)

2.3 Somaliland shortly

In order to better understand how traditions and history affect the circumstances in which this study is done, a brief introduction to the history of Somaliland and its power structures seems necessary.



Picture 2, Flag of Somaliland by Andersson (2002)

Somaliland has been a part of Somalia since the 1960's. In 1991 after a civil war in Somalia came to an unstable end Somaliland declared independence. (Lewis, , p. 80 2008.) However, Somaliland has not yet been recognized as a sovereign state by the international community. Nonetheless, serious attempts towards building a working democracy in Somaliland are in process. (BBC News, 2015.)

Albeit attempts to establish western democracy in Somaliland have been made, the clan system based on family and village relations is still distinct in Somalia and Somaliland. For that reason these grass root movements and networks are important aspects of power and must be taken into account in this environment. (Lewis, pp. 58-60, 2008.)

After the end of the civil war and two years of uncertainty and efforts to build up the nation, a four month conference was held in Somaliland in 1993. During this conference a preliminary constitution was written, in which the roles of the traditional clan elders were formalized and a two chamber legislative was founded. This legislative was formed, on one hand of the traditional clan elders, and on the other of democratically elected representatives. This was managed so that one level of the governmental body could not rule without restriction, but should bear responsibility to the other. It proved to be an intelligent measure, since it meant taking the existing power structures into consideration but not giving either of them absolute control. The most notable thing about these actions was that they were all organized on grass root level and succeeded well. (Lewis, pp. 96-105, 2008.)

The way to solve issues in Somali culture has relied on grass root level movements. Clan elders and other significant community members are called together and discussions are held. From the vantage point of western hierarchy, where power moves

downward from the top, this may seem impractical. It is nonetheless an appealing form of using power, since it brings decision making and democracy close to the citizens. (Lewis, p.114, 2008.) In the context of the work ISF and their partner organizations are doing in Somaliland, this is very encouraging, since their goal is to enhance sharing of power among the less privileged (Solidarisuus, 2015a). Traditions and policies do not change easily and one must find ways of working with and within the existing system. (Lewis, p.44, 2008.)

In the beginning of the 21st century there have been other changes in Somaliland as well. Among others, in the way citizens earn their livelihood and in urbanization. This has not only affected the way of life and progress in the cities, but also the way that people live in the countryside. Modern life is catching up with tradition and this not only improves living conditions, but also makes them more complicated. (Lewis, p.101, 2008.) ISF is working in co-operation with its partner organizations to help develop Somaliland and its people to become more independent and tackle the issues of modern life on grass root level.



Picture 3, Market in Somaliland by Jenni Gästgivar (2015)

3 Theoretical approaches

The topics of interest for both parties involved in this study, ISF and the conductors of the thesis, were those of participation and dimensions of power. There cannot be par-

ticipation without empowerment (Adams, pp. 30-31, 2008) thus the dimensions of power affect the levels of participation. Searching for appropriate theoretical framework led to choosing the two approaches that will be introduced in this chapter; the Ladder of Participation by Sherry Arnstein and The Power Cube by John Gaventa.

3.1 The Ladder of Participation

Participation in the context of this study is a distinctive form of involvement. Participation is both empowering and proactive in a sense that it enables the less powerful members of society to exercise power over matters that concern them. Moreover participation is political and social in nature. (Adams, 2008, pp. 30-31)

Participation in relation to society can be described as a process in which the act of making decisions is divided equally among the ones they affect. This means that not only power holders can influence the decision making process, but that all citizens can. Thus, participation is an essential part of democracy. (Hart, p. 5, 1992)

The Ladder of Participation developed by Sherry Arnstein (1969) is a theory of citizen participation that is quoted often and is a basis of many other participation theories. It describes participation at different levels and also describes positions that may be referred to as participation, but are not truly such. (Arnstein, 1969.) It was further developed by Robert Hart (1992) on children's participation.

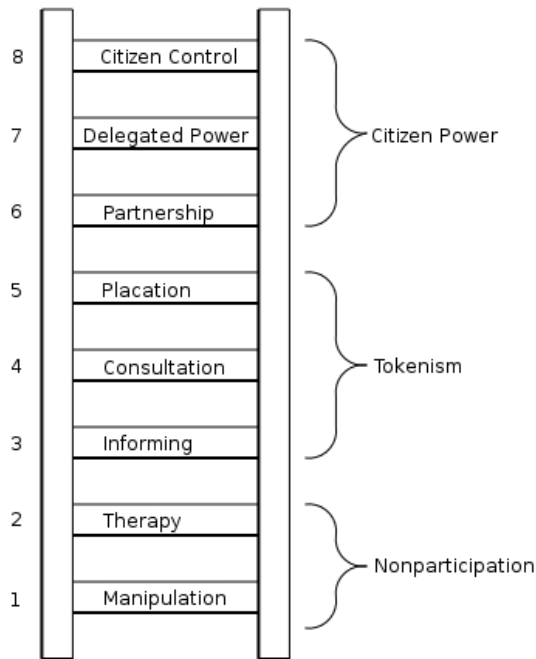


Figure 1, Ladder of Citizen Participation, as presented by Arnstein (1969)

There are eight levels on the ladder of citizen participation (Figure 1). These are divided into three factions. The two lowest rungs are (1) *manipulation* and (2) *therapy*, which are characterized as nonparticipation. The next levels, (3) *informing*, (4) *consultation* and (5) *placation*, are classified as tokenism. The three highest rungs are (6) *partnership*, (7) *delegated power* and (8) *citizen power*. These three are seen as levels on which true citizen participation occurs. (Arnstein, 1969.)

On the two lowest (1-2) rungs, *manipulation* and *therapy*, the intention is not to improve citizen participation, but to help those in power to advance their own agenda. On these levels power holders determine how citizens should participate by “teaching” or “repairing” them according to the needs of ones in power. (Arnstein, 1969.) According to Hart (p. 9, 1992) the lowest rungs in his ladder are often used to advance the cause of those in power and, therefore, do not require real participation. In other words, the participants might further a cause they are not truly committed to because they are not informed about all aspects involved. These actions are rarely transparent and the involvement of the citizens remains shallow. (Hart, p. 9, 1992.)

The next two rungs; (3-4) *informing* and *consultation*, are grouped as tokenism. On these levels the opinions of the citizens are indeed heard, but they cannot ensure that they will be acted upon. It is not a real way of participating, since those in power control the actual outcome and choose whether or not the opinions of citizens will be heard. (Arnstein 1969.) Hart (p. 9-11, 1992) describes this as adults giving the children a certain role, which they cannot choose but must fill nonetheless. The fifth rung, also categorized in tokenism, is *placation*. On this level citizens are asked for advice and they may think that they are able to influence the outcome. In reality the ones in power only take the advice into account if they choose to. On these three rungs citizens seem to be able to have an influence, but in reality their opinions will likely not have any effect on the outcome. (Arnstein, 1969.)

On the three highest rungs (6-8), *partnership*, *delegated power* and *citizen power*, true participation eventually occurs. Level (6), *partnership*, is quite self-explanatory; on it different parties co-operate to achieve a common goal. (Arnstein, 1969.) There is still some way to go to full participation from this level. Even though the actions are initiated by the power holders, real involvement from the participants exists and they can influence the decision making process. (Hart, p 12,1992.)

On the highest rungs (7) *delegated power* and (8) *citizen control*, citizens either have the greater number of influential seats (7) or full control over decision making (8). (Arnstein, 1969). Hart (p. 14, 1992) specifies this as meaning that the actions are led by the participants and decision-making is genuinely shared between all parties.

Like all theories, the ladder of participation also has its flaws. The division between those who have power and those who have not, is rarely as clear as is presumed in this model. Neither the power holders nor the citizens rarely form a homogenous group and may include people with very differing positions. (Arnstein, 1969.) The ladder of participation is connected to this study, since the levels of participation are a part of what ISF's operations aspire to change. Equal participation of stakeholders is an important goal in the community based approach, which ISF uses. This approach helps in understanding whether or not actual changes in participation have occurred.

Furthermore, participation rarely actualizes in such clear forms in real life. The rungs may intertwine and there may be parts of real participation mixed among those of tokenism. In addition to this, the ladder also reminds us that decision making should be

transparent and that in a real democracy everyone should be able to participate. (Arnstein, 1969.)

3.2 Power Cube

The other theoretical viewpoint in this thesis is that of power, the Power Cube presented by John Gaventa.

3.2.1 Dimensions of Power

The Power Cube's origins are in Steven Lukes' work on three dimensions of power, presented in his book *Power: A radical view*. The first dimension of power is observable power, in which one person or a group can exercise over another party through their authoritative status. In the second dimension the power holders get their agenda through by imposing implicit or explicit obstacles for decision making so that the less powerful have no other choice but to comply. The last dimension of power is more insidious. Here the ruling members of society surreptitiously manipulate people into submission without them even realizing it. (Lukes, 1974.)

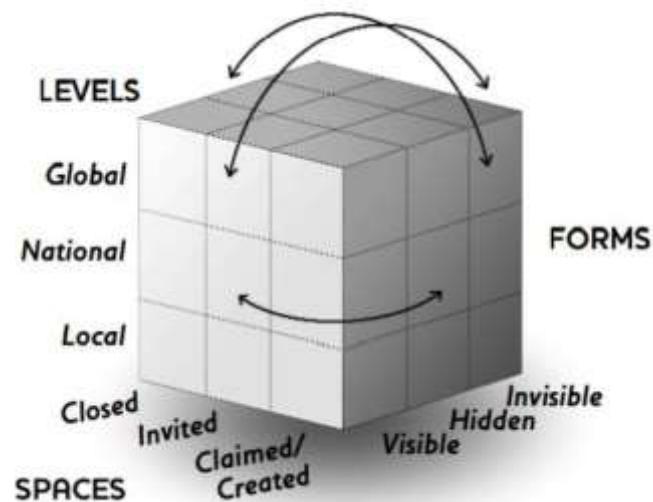


Figure 2, *The Power Cube as presented by Gaventa (p.25, 2006)*

3.2.2 The Power Cube

John Gaventa's Power Cube (figure 2) goes beyond Lukes' work. It is a multidimensional perspective on the formation of power. In effect, the Power Cube is a framework

for analyzing and understanding the interrelated nature of power through *places*, *spaces* and *forms of power*. It is dynamic in nature with each dimension affecting the other. The cube is heavily connected to participation, and examines who can or cannot take part in shaping power structures of societies. (Gaventa, p. 26, 2006.)

3.2.3 Places of power

The Power Cube illustrates *places of power* in three different locations: *local*, *national* and *global*. These places can both hinder and enhance the distribution of power in civil societies. Power can be distributed in these locations from one to the other, or separately without one affecting the other. Hence, the places of power fluctuate. (Bird et al, pp. 22-23, 2009.)

3.2.4 Spaces of power

Another dimension of the cube is *spaces*, which again are divided into three: *closed/provided*, *invited* and *claimed/created spaces*.

Closed spaces refer to spaces where only a select few have access. Citizens cannot enter these arenas of power. Another way to withhold power from citizens is within *provided spaces* where members of the elite make decisions, for instance, on public procurements and services from their own viewpoint without consulting the need of the citizens. (Gaventa, p. 26, 2006.)

Invited spaces, on the other hand, are places where initiatives are made to open up *closed spaces*. Authorities try to enhance participation by inviting citizens to take part in decision-making. (Gaventa, p. 26, 2006.) Citizens themselves might also advocate for the creation of the aforementioned spaces, e.g. by founding an NGO (Bird, K. et al, p. 22, 2009).

Finally, there are *claimed and created spaces* which are seized by underprivileged people in society. These spaces are formed independently by the less powerful to get their voice heard. They are also spaces where likeminded people can gather to discuss issues concerning them, and decide whether or not to take action on the grounds of those concerns. (Gaventa, p. 27, 2006.)

3.2.5 Forms of power

And finally, according to Gaventa's Power Cube, forms of power are represented as *visible power*, *hidden power* and *invisible power*. These dimensions of the cube define the level of visibility in power. (Gaventa, p. 29, 2006.)

Visible power can be defined as the power which politicians and state officials exercise, whether it be through legislation, statutes or government policies. Hence, this form of power is something that can be detected in everyday surroundings. It is legitimate use of power. (Gaventa, p. 29, 2006.)

People who are in powerful positions and are able to control others to get their agenda through operate on the dimension of *hidden power*. This group of a select few exclude people from arenas of decision making and have a powerful influence over the disenfranchised. Organization of power is biased towards the powerful. (Gaventa, p. 29, 2006.)

Invisible power is a subtler form of power. Indoctrinating people into believing they do not have certain attributes to exercise power is excluding them from places of participation without them even realizing it. People in powerful positions can covertly shape the unconscious minds of people by exercising *invisible power*. (Gaventa, p. 29, 2006.)

The cube offers a practical tool to analyze power structures of any given society, and the possibilities to change them. However, it is clear that the Power Cube has a multitude of spaces, places and forms of power beyond the ones mentioned in this approach. Like a Rubik's cube, the alignment of the *spaces*, *places* and *forms of power* yield the best results for societal change. (Gaventa, pp. 30-31, 2006.) In this study the dimensions of power relate to the ability of participants to take part in the projects implemented by the partner organizations. It also refers to *forms of power* which affect the level of participation overtly and covertly. *The places of power* merely represent the structure of international development co-operation carried out by ISF and the partner organizations in Somaliland. In essence, this dimension points to the direction where power resides in this context.

The theories presented here seemed suitable since they have both been used in development co-operation studies before (for example: A Framework for Analysing Partic-

ipation in Development (Oxford Policy Management, 2013)). The theories are also in line with the research question of this study and the aims of ISF.

4 Implementation

4.1 Forming the questionnaire and interview

The purpose of this study was to explore how the work ISF and their partner organizations have done in Somaliland have enhanced participation in the local communities. The data was collected from ISF's land co-ordinator of Somaliland and representatives of the partner organizations.

As mentioned in chapter 2, participation, equality and furthering civil society are part of ISF's core aims and, thus, in an important part of all their actions. The conductors of this thesis were also interested in the same themes and read materials from ISF and other sources to specify what kind of themes and questions would be suitable for this topic. Discussions and active e-mailing with the working life partner were also a part of the process. They offered guidance and their thoughts on the subject during the formulation of the interview/questionnaire questions. After these endeavors the themes clarified.

The themes that guided the building of the questionnaire in the beginning were those of participation on different levels: communal, societal, organizational and political. Other themes included the roles of women, equality and different levels of power. These themes were formulated on the grounds of the theoretical approaches and based on the discussions between the representatives of ISF and the conductors of this thesis. However, these were not the final themes in the study.

ISF's land co-ordinator was interviewed via Skype. This was done to gather background information about ISF's and the partner organization's operations in addition to data collection for the study. To probe further on important matters concerning the topic of this thesis an interview seemed to be the appropriate method. Because of scheduling and technical constraints it was not possible to interview all of the other respondents via Skype. This is why it was decided that an on-line questionnaire would be conducted. The respondents among the representatives of partner organizations were

chosen because of their experience in the matters concerning this study. They were able to give an extensive portrayal of the communities they are working in. They also had fluency in English.

The questions for the land co-ordinator and the ones in the questionnaire differed slightly, but their content was akin. Most of the questions were similar with slight differences in perspective. This was because ISF's land co-ordinator and the partner organizations representatives have somewhat different tasks and viewpoints to the matters concerning this study. Furthermore, funnel technique, which moves from more common, easy-to-answer, questions to more specific ones, was used to comprise the interview and the questionnaires, (Bailey, p. 107, 1994). Both the interview questions and the questionnaire are attached as appendixes 1, 2 and 3. The sample size was eleven.



Picture 4 Women on the computer by Jenni Gästgivar (2015)

4.2 Methodology

This thesis was done as a qualitative study. Qualitative research aims at eliciting the meaning of social world phenomena. It is a way of analyzing human experience, social interactions, stories or other type of media. (Kvale, p.1, 2007.) For this study the purpose was to gather the perceptions and experiences of the workers of the partner organizations with regards to the subject under study.

A questionnaire and an interview were used as a data collection method. Interviewing aims at conveying the experiences of the respondents articulated in their own words with the assistance of an interviewer (Bailey, p. 174, 1994). Questionnaires, on the other hand, are filled out by the respondents in their own privacy. That is why an intro-

ductory letter is always attached to a questionnaire. (Bailey, p.155, 1994.) Both the interview and the questionnaire used in this study were open ended. They allow the respondent to explain in their own words what is meant and to clarify further on the topics they find important. (Bailey, p. 121, 1994.)

4.2.1 Qualitative research on-line

The data for this study was collected by utilizing the internet. Hence, certain aspects had to be taken into account.

Computer-mediated communication (CMC) is a qualitative approach which assists when a focus group lives over a great distance and time is essential. (Mann&Stewart, p. 17, 2000) In the case of this study the respondents lived in Somaliland.

CMC is also effortless from the perspective of the respondents since they are able to do it at their chosen location and occasion. (Mann&Stewart, p. 24, 2000) Furthermore, the anonymity of the internet makes people more open and unafraid of reactions of the interviewer (Joinson, pp. 177-178, 2001). Nonetheless, when conducting CMC courtesy has to be taken into account.

Netiquette refers to a set of rules and manners adopted in on-line environment. Respectful and responsible behaviour is expected when interacting with others online. (Mann&Stewart, p. 57, 2000.) In this thesis email netiquette was of importance when contacting the respondents. The emails were carried out in an orderly fashion retaining to formal language irrespective of cultural differences. A "Thank you"-email was sent after the respondents had sent their questionnaires back.

4.2.2 Cultural sensitivity and establishing rapport

When conducting a study within a different culture, like in this thesis, objectivity is essential. Being aware of the social and historical context is something to take note of as well. (Dunbar et al, 2002, Warren, 2002.) Moreover, cultural sensitivity is something to consider because some words or adages may offend the respondents (Dunbar et al, pp. 279-298, 2002). This was taken into account by learning about Somaliland culture beforehand and making the questionnaire as uncomplicated as possible. Nevertheless this may have affected the results of the questionnaire, since it is difficult to judge how

the background of the respondents affects this type of medium, even if one has studied it beforehand.

Braun and Clarke (p. 94, 2013) state that rapport is essential when conducting qualitative studies. Accordingly, for the respondents to answer honestly it is important for them to know the interviewer (Dunbar et al, pp. 279-298, 2002). In this case, although the respondents did not know the ones conducting the questionnaire, they were familiar with the organization behind it and the land co-ordinator working with them. This, most likely, affected the willingness and honesty of their answers. Nonetheless, the composers of the questionnaire also introduced themselves in the introductory letter (Appendix 3). Joinson (pp. 177-180, 2001) offers another perspective stating that people disclose more information in CMC than in face-to-face situations. The anonymity the internet provides makes people more open and unafraid of reactions of the interviewer. (Joinson, pp. 177-180, 2001.)

4.3 Thematic analysis

For this study thematic analysis was used. It seemed the most appropriate method since it enables the conductors of the study to identify recurring patterns in the data. The modus operandi of thematic analysis is based on seeing, making sense of and analyzing the data (Boyatzis, pp. 4-6, 1998). Thematic analysis focuses on identifiable themes and patterns derived from collected data. Thus, identifying patterns and meanings from the data will answer the research question. (Braun & Clarke, pp. 174-179, 2013.)

Thematic analysis consists of the following six steps: familiarising oneself with the information; coding; searching; reviewing and defining themes; and describing the results. The process, however, does not only work downward, but also moves back and forth during the analysis phase, even mixing some of the phases together (Braun&Clarke, pp. 174-179, 2013).

4.3.1 Analysing the data

The compilation of the questionnaires and the interview were based on predetermined themes drawn from the theories. These themes; *participation on different levels: communal, societal, organizational and political*, and the *roles of women, equality and dif-*

ferent levels of power, directed the search for new themes arising from the data. A deductive way, which means that the focus is on existing concepts and ideas arising from the data, was employed in this study. (Boyatzis, pp. 99-127, 1998) In our case predetermined themes guided the beginning of the analysis. In addition to this an inductive method was also used, meaning that coding and theme development were directed by the content of the data in an attempt to find new themes. (Boyatzis, pp. 67-98, 1998).

After the interview had been done and the answers to the questionnaires received, data analysis started. First the interview was transcribed and translated into English and the responses to the questionnaire were randomly coded to ensure anonymity. After this the material was read and re-read several times.

The next step was to start coding the data. First, codes were developed from the data in a theory-driven manner. This was because of a priori theories which were the base for searching codes (Boyatzis, pp. 99-127, 1998). This was done by marking sections from the text with different labels, either by hand or in a word processing program. The writers of this paper did this separately to ensure validity. This type of approach is called investigator triangulation which refers to the use of more than one researcher to interpret the data. (Gibson&O'Connor, p. 74, 2003). What is more, two theories were utilized whereupon it gave more depth to the conclusions driven from the data.

The themes that guided the making of the questionnaire were used in the preliminary organization of the data by both conductors of this study. Simultaneously new themes were scouted for. These were then segregated into categories and subcategories to see how the themes intertwined and to clarify what each of them was comprised of. Some of the questions were reviewed side by side to see the difference between responses. This in turn clarified some of the topics emerging from the data. Thereafter, the conductors came together to see if similar codes and themes had been found. This seemed to be the case and advancing to the next stage, reviewing and defining themes, became possible.

The final four themes and their sub themes emerged after careful consideration during the analysis process. The themes are *participation*, *transparency*, *political level*, and *autonomy*. The subthemes are *community participation*, *women's participation*, *leader's roles*, *information sharing* and, *recruitment and organizational transparency*. The results obtained from the data will be introduced in the next chapter.

5 Results

In this chapter the results of the questionnaire will be introduced. The results presented here are all deduced from the answers of the eleven respondents of this study.

The partner organizations in Somaliland have been working with ISF for different periods of time (1-14 years, figure 3). The country co-coordinator for ISF has worked in Somaliland for 14 years and has had an opportunity to observe how the society has changed. Thus, the information she was able to convey was valuable and gave substantial knowledge on how the situation has developed during ISF's presence in Somaliland.

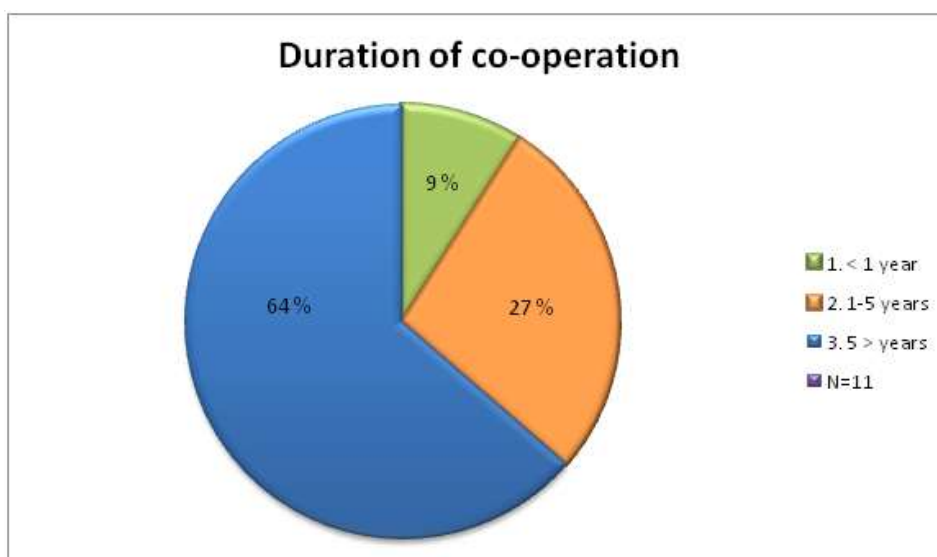


Figure 3

The results in this chapter are grouped in the four main themes that emerged from the data: *participation* and its subthemes *community participation*, *women's participation* and *leader's roles*; *transparency* was divided in the subthemes of *information sharing* as well as *recruitment and organizational transparency*. The last two themes were *political level* and *autonomy*. All of the themes and subthemes are in accordance with dimensions of power and participation.

5.1 Participation

Participation, as one of the main themes in this study, was explicit in the results. It seems that the longer the projects have been carried out in the communities the more the beneficiaries participate in the projects and in their communities. Female participation emerged clearly from the data and it seems that changing attitudes towards traditional roles also affected the level of participation. Another significant aspect was the community leaders' roles in advancing, or hindering, participation.

5.1.1 Community participation

The community based approach that ISF applies makes a considerable impact on how projects are received in the communities. In this approach the intention is to involve the whole community from planning phases to implementation of the projects. Moreover, inquiries are made among the members of communities about their needs and how they could be met. Projects are then planned together with the community members, partner organization and ISF. In an ideal situation the implementation is ultimately in the hands of the beneficiaries, in assistance with the partner organizations.

Eight respondents of the questionnaire highlighted the importance of the community based approach in their answers. The planning phases of projects were seen most positively when they were done in collaboration with ISF, the partner organization and the community they would benefit. This approach seems to empower communities to tackle issues collectively and to become more self-reliant.

The community based approach and education were emphasized by most of the respondents. According to one of the respondents, the main outcomes of their projects are to enhance the skills of beneficiaries so that they can continue to impact their community without external support. It was reported that when participation rises, the communities become more socially sustainable as beneficiaries and other people in the communities work together to better their living conditions.

“The projects funded by ISF and my organization are designed based on participatory system whereby actively participated in implementing agency, funding agency, representatives of project stakeholders, line ministry and other project stakeholders at large”

Subsequently, the community based approach gives the members of the communities an opportunity to talk about their issues and find out how to solve them on their own. Another aspect of this approach is building trust between the beneficiaries and the representatives of the partner organizations to increase involvement and commitment in the projects. Therefore, awareness raising and capacity building activities are not only done among the communities, but also within the partner organizations. This gives the partner organizations full understanding of the needs of the communities and also guarantees professionalism and real awareness of what is required to enhance participation in the communities.

“Our cooperation with ISF have gave us opportunity to let the community to talk about the problems they face, let them design their problems and find out the solutions by themselves”

5.1.2 Women’s participation

Women’s participation was one of the most important concepts to stand out in the results according to the data. According to the data, participation of women has increased in both project activities and in the communities during co-operation with partner organizations. Five responses show that women participate in some projects even more than men do. Another five respondents state that women could hardly contribute at all to community issues before the projects, but now they are given space to discuss their ideas and concerns. What is more, they are active participants in many development activities in their community. Respondents also reported that a big influence on the enhanced participation of women have been the gender officers. According to ISF’s programme co-ordinator for gender equality the gender officers have been hired to mainstream gender into the project objectives and activities and develop strategies that strengthen women’s participation in the project.

“it’s a huge development what has happened since the moment the first gender officer started their work ... women also dare to open their mouths in the villages... there has been a huge change in that participation.”

The overall picture arising from the responses was that the attitudes towards female roles had changed during ISF’S presence in Somaliland, albeit traditions and religion still play a big part in their society. It seems that the roles of women in the communities

have indeed changed during this time and women are taking on a more active role in their communities, and even on societal level. Biggest contradictions seem to still exist in family life.

It seems that today women are the breadwinners in the family and take on the responsibility of taking care of their families. It was reported by a respondent that: “...*there are hundreds of women who have started their own businesses and make a consistent income.*” According to eight of the respondents, women have adapted more active roles in their communities after partaking in the projects. Men did the opposite and, according to one respondent, this could be attributed to a spreading khat addiction in Somaliland society.

“The use of khat among the male population has resulted in women becoming providers for their families ... The employment rates are so high so there is no work and the men chew khat and women make a living for their family.”

In five instances the respondents reported that they had witnessed improvements in family life. Nonetheless it seems that the roles are still somewhat rigid. Husbands and wives share responsibility of their children together after attending workshops on this matter and this affected the children positively.

“There the project was addressing both parent to collaborate in the family caring and when mother is in the market making the family bread, the father take care of follow up his children to ensure that the children didn't develop bad behaviors and become dropout. This awareness was started and both parents attend to understand when collaboration exit between the parent the impact have in children caring and when this collaboration is not in place vise vase.”

Some of the projects are involved with sensitive issues, FGM and GBV. Thus, it was reported, that there has been controversy in the beginning of some of these projects. Nonetheless, it seems that the longer the projects have lasted, the more the attitudes have changed and even men have become more involved in these causes.

“The participation of women in the beginning was higher than men in majority of the activities of the project but now men becoming active after they understand well the project objectives and witnessed it outcomes.”

Although traditional roles still persist, it seems that work in gender equality that the partner organizations have implemented, has had an effect on project and community level.

According to two of the statements, education among women had also increased and this enhances their opportunities in the labor market. It seems that the aforementioned subject also takes women to higher positions in the society. Female ministers stand as testaments of this development, as stated by one respondent.

“...the schooling of girls has enhanced and ... you can also see it in these job ads that, women apply for jobs more. That a few years back there were no applications from women, so now there’s a lot of applications from women also”

When asked if women’s participation had increased on organizational, project and community level, ten out of eleven answered that it had. The data suggests that women’s improved status is most conspicuous on community and societal level. That is where the attitude change towards equality is the strongest, according to the respondents. What is more, the presence of gender officers has influenced the attitudes towards women’s status on all levels of the projects and in their communities. It seems that the participation of women is one of the most important outcomes of the work done in Somaliland.



Picture 5 Women learning by Siru Aura (2015)

5.1.3 Leaders' roles

As discussed previously in chapter 2.2, clans and traditional leaders are still in an important position in Somaliland society. Thus, their role is also prominent in how the projects can be implemented in their respective communities.

Gaining the trust of the leaders is, as reported by four respondents, crucial, since they are often key actors to the participation of community members. It seems that when community leaders are involved in the projects it enhances participation of other members in the communities. It seems the longer the partnership in the communities has lasted, the more positive was the reaction of the leaders to the presence of the partner organizations.

“The positive feedback that my organization receives from the community leaders always encourages my organization to increase the community participation of every phase of the project life cycle. “

However, in some cases leaders are, according to two of the respondents, apprehensive about the projects being implemented in their community. This seems to happen, especially, if the projects are dealing with sensitive cultural issues, such as GBV. Most-

ly these have occurred when initializing new projects with new partner organizations. Two of the respondents felt that especially in the rural areas gaining the acceptance of the community leaders is challenging, notably, in the context of traditions. However, the more the leaders learn about the partnering organizations and their projects, the more they seem to want to collaborate. According to five respondents it seems that most community leaders appreciate the project work done in their communities.

“When the leaders and community members participate the project planning phase, this positively affect the project during the implementation phase as community members feel ownership of the project and this creates a sustainable project environment.”

5.2 Transparency

Transparency in all actions is another important aspect of the functioning of ISF and they also demand this from their partner organizations (Solidarisuus, 2013). Seemingly, transparency in ISF’s actions has had an influence on how the partner organizations and beneficiaries alike conduct their affairs. This can be seen in how information is shared, how job vacancies are advertised and filled, and how records are kept open. Likewise, eight of the respondents told that they use some type of medium to disseminate information of the operations of their organization. As remarked by one of the respondents: *“The objective is to maintain absolute transparency with the community..”*

5.2.1 Information sharing

The data suggests that information about the projects is delivered on three levels of society. The information is shared not only to direct beneficiaries, but also to the communities, their immediate leaders and also to society at large. As reported in the data, in most cases the phases of planning, implementation and ongoing information sharing are clear from the beginning. The beneficiaries are included in the whole project life cycle, which makes the processes translucent, as mentioned before

“Representatives of the community were involved in all phases of the project like project planning and design, implementation and evaluation phases”

All the respondents stated that they share information, one way or another, with the communities. What is more, ten out of eleven of them mentioned that their organization holds information sharing meetings, workshops and/or discussions. According to the data this level of operations consisted of project beneficiaries and other concerned stakeholders “..such as parents, youth, elders, village committees, school masters..(who)..assess their thoughts about the core problems the project is addressing and activities they recommending to include in the project implementation..” This goes to show that the partner organizations work closely with the beneficiaries in the communities and share responsibility. Grass root level involvement in monitoring how the projects are progressing is also a part of mutual processes and it is crucial for ISF and the partner organizations.

“We disseminate the project information to other members of society media channels like TV and other printing media like (name of organization) Magazine. The project information is shared through (name of organization) Website which we constantly update the project information in order to reach the large communities”

On societal level government authorities, line ministries and local authorities are informed of the actions of ISF and partner organizations. One respondent mentioned giving recommendations to line ministries through documentation and reporting. Another respondent remarks that all of the projects have to be under the authority of a line ministry. Furthermore, ISF attends to that the line ministries monitor the actions of partner organizations (Solidarisuus, 2013).

Only two of the respondents said that community members have tried to affect the partner organization’s operations. These situations were resolved by negotiating and sharing information. Hence, partner organizations explain their actions to the members of the communities they are working with, which in part strengthens understanding of projects.

“Reactions of the community members might differ from village to village, from place to place, also it might differs from project to project, community members might like some of the project, and they also might not like other projects, but generally, gaining their willing and acceptance is very crucial to a project to succeed”

5.2.2 Recruitment and Organizational Transparency

ISF has clear policies in finding new employees (and partner organizations). These policies are transparent throughout and transparency is demanded from all parties involved, as apparent in the data. Furthermore, available positions are advertised in newspapers and everyone who applies has equal opportunity to be employed. (Solidarisuus, 2013.) It seems that these policies have affected how partner organizations employ new staff members as well. Recruitment practices are employed in lieu of hiring a friend, states one respondent.

Keeping open records are required from partner organizations. This appears to have affected how the beneficiaries conduct their affairs. According to two responses, transparency in bookkeeping and other organizational matters has developed during cooperation with ISF. All of the partner organizations have a clear criterion for selecting beneficiaries. Both partner organizations and beneficiaries alike take care of their matters in the co-operatives and other forums openly. As reported by a respondent, bookkeeping has come a long way during ISF's presence in Somaliland. Still some challenges seem to exist, mainly in monitoring the projects.

“Yes, they have learnt how to record their meeting minutes, financial statements, how to record the visitors book, they have learnt information of the project activities”

5.3 Political level

As a requirement for collaboration with ISF it should be stated in the memorandum of the partner organizations that they are non-political, meaning that they cannot participate in party politics. This, nevertheless, does not mean they cannot be political actors. From the answers to the question: *How would you describe your organization as a political actor?*, it became clear that the respondents had interpreted the meaning of it in different ways. Three replied that their organization is not a political actor at all. Six respondents explained how they advocate for the betterment of their society. The difference in the answers might be due to the different kind of operations the partner organizations have and, consequently, how they see their own organization's role. The

opinion of one of the respondents was that everything is politics and, therefore, cannot be separated from everyday life.

“I can rightly said that my organization is political actor in the Somaliland society through advocating environmental protection issue, accessibility of quality education by the disadvantaged youths who did not opportunity to enroll formal education due to the lack of finance and gender empowerment. Based on the above highlighted areas my organization is clearly qualified to be change agent for Somaliland community.”

5.4 Autonomy

The last distinct topic in the responses was the autonomy of the partner organizations. It is a goal of ISF’s operations to help the partner organizations and the communities the work is done in to become autonomous, i.e. self-reliant (Solidarisuus, 2013). Therefore, the topic of autonomy is of interest as are the results in this area.

Four out of eleven respondents felt that their operations would continue without the help of ISF, but with fewer resources. It remained unclear, though, if the partner organizations could operate without any funds from other donors. All the partner organizations have other donors alongside ISF according to the data. Six of the respondents also felt that the help that ISF has provided in capacity building on organizational level has been crucial for their development. Two of the respondents did not seem to have a clear picture about their dependence on ISF, which might indicate that there are some issues in how the information is shared on different levels of the organization.

“Yes, we are able to independently look for funds, these days the level of humanitarian funding in Somaliland decreased and there is new funding box in Somaliland called Somaliland Development Fund(SDF).”

“The help that my organization receives from ISF is perceived as crucial as it is contributing to the organizational growth and organizational development but my organization do not alone dependent the income received from ISF the organization was operating before ISF partnership and I am

sure that we can still exist and operate successfully without the income of ISF.”

A respondent, who works in an organization that has partnered long with ISF, felt that they will always be dependent on ISF’s funds. Co-dependence was also mentioned by one respondent, stating ISF and the partner organization are mutually reliant on each other.

Another aspect in the autonomy of the partner organizations is how independently they are able to operate. Respondents had differing opinions on who decides what kind of projects to fund and plan. It seems that the longer partner organizations have worked with ISF, the more they feel they have independence in relation to the projects. Two of the respondents felt that they were able to allocate the funds received from ISF independently. Six respondents stated that this allocation is determined in collaboration with ISF and/or the communities. Two respondents said that ISF is in charge of the decisions made on funding.

From the results presented here, it seems that ISF and their partner organizations have had an effect on the levels of participation and dimensions of power in the communities they work in. This will be examined in the next chapter.

6 Conclusions

The aim of this thesis was to explore how the work ISF and their partner organizations have done in Somaliland has enhanced participation in the local communities through the Ladder of Citizen Participation (Arnstein, 1969) and the Power Cube (Gaventa, 2006). These conclusions in this study were used as a background analysis for ISF’s upcoming action plan for the years 2016-2018.

As explained in the previous chapter, the presence of ISF has made a difference in many areas they work in. Participation has increased both on project and community level, notably among women. Transparency in all actions and co-operation between ISF, partner organizations and the communities they work in has also improved. These actions have helped the partner organizations establish clearer organizational struc-

tures through capacity building and have made their collaboration with the beneficiaries more structured. The political level and the autonomy of the partner organizations were also discussed. They are both closely connected to dimensions of power and, thus, are important in the context of this thesis.

6.1 Levels of participation

As reported by the respondents, co-operation with ISF has enhanced participation on many levels in the communities they work in. Community participation seems to have risen both among beneficiaries and other members of the communities where the projects are implemented in.

According to the data it seems that the beneficiaries, and other people in the communities, have moved from the lower rungs of the ladder of participation; *manipulation, therapy* and *informing*, towards the higher rungs. On the lowest rungs of the ladder of participation, there is no true involvement and the beneficiaries are manoeuvred into certain ways of thinking without ever inviting them to be truly involved. (Arnstein, 1969.) It would seem that especially women have been on these rungs before the involvement of ISF and the partner organizations. In many responses it is indicated that women did not have an opportunity to affect their circumstances before the projects were implemented whereas now they are active participants.

Ascent on the ladder of participation seems especially clear in the case of women's participation. As reported in the previous chapter, many respondents stated that women now have a more active role in their communities. It seems that when the projects have begun women have been on the lower rungs of the ladder, where they have been passive objects. The more they have been participating in the projects, the more they have also soared on the ladder. The women have learned how they can contribute to their community and, thus, they have become motivated to participate more actively. This has made a difference in attitudes towards women's roles in general. The aim of gender equality is not only to enhance the wellbeing of women, but to improve the welfare of the whole society by emphasizing the significance of each individual (Solidaarius, 2013).

ISF's community based approach aims at getting to the highest rungs of the ladder by partnering actively with all community members from the beginning of the project life

cycle. *Partnership*, the sixth rung on the ladder of participation, as explained by Arnstein (1969), means that those in power do not make the decisions based on their own objectives, but that other stakeholders involved are also included in decision making. This would seem to be close to where the process is at the moment. According to the data, the community based approach of ISF has been effective and beneficiaries now take part in decision making processes in their communities.

It seems clear that the projects benefit the whole communities, not only the direct beneficiaries. It can be said that the process of the projects moves from rung 3, *information*, to the higher rungs through *consultation* and *partnership* and aims at the highest rungs; *delegated power* and *citizen control* (Arnstein, p. 3, 1969). The aims of the projects are not only to better the concrete living conditions of the communities, but the process also helps their members understand how they can themselves participate actively and thereby shape their living environment.

6.2 Dimensions of power

The data indicates that ISF is helping the partner organizations and beneficiaries to open up *claimed spaces* in accordance with the power cube. The partner organizations and community members are involved in the design of the projects throughout the process. This signifies that they are able to get their own agenda accepted and that they have the opportunity to create their own spaces to do this in. As Gaventa (p. 26, 2006) states, *claimed spaces* are spaces of power which have been created by the less powerful to ascertain their involvement in decision making. These forums are created in collaboration with the partner organizations, beneficiaries and community members, and it seems they are run increasingly by the actual stakeholders

It is difficult for the disenfranchised, in this case especially women, to enter *closed* and *invited spaces*. These spaces are either closed for the majority of citizens, or an invitation is needed to enter them. (Gaventa, p. 26, 2006.) Now women seem to have an opportunity to not only be heard, but also to pursue their own interests and occupational aspirations as they open spaces that have been closed for them before. This indeed seems to be the case on a larger scale in the communities in question. Nowadays there are even female ministers. In the case of female participation, it is clear that women have moved from being excluded from *closed spaces* to *created spaces*.

“before our project women can't contribute the community issues even those effecting their lives men was overtaking and don't want to give space in order to express their ideas, but now they have a very good positive participation in development activities and they were empowered in order to reduce social discrimination among male and female and violence against women.”

Different forms of power (see chapter 3.2) also affect the functionings of communities in Somaliland. The data gave the impression that the *visibility of power* manifested itself in forms of both *hidden* and *invisible power* in the communities in question. *Hidden power* is exercised by power holders exclusively to further their own agenda (Gaventa, p. 29 2006). In this case it refers to the leaders (and other influential community members) affecting the design and implementation of the projects in given areas. Some leaders were very apprehensive about certain aspects of the projects which in turn might have affected the willingness of some communities to take part in the projects. As described in chapter two, Somaliland's society is still very traditional and clan elders have an important role in decision making. Power structures affect levels of participation as different forms of power are being exercised (Gaventa, p. 29, 2006) and it seems that some leaders exerted their power in deciding which projects are to be implemented.

Another form of power, *invisible power*, is also present in Somaliland society. It is an internalised belief that power structures and prevalent beliefs are unyielding and cannot be transformed. This is closely connected to tradition in Somaliland. The leaders preserve their exclusive status by holding on to the control they have and by preventing others to gain this authority. (Gaventa, p. 29, 2006.) Transparency in all actions and involving stakeholders in the process of making decision helps see through prevailing power structures. This leads to beneficiaries being more interested in the process and participating further in the actions that help improve their conditions. In this case it can perhaps be seen most clearly in the way attitudes toward women's roles have changed. Women are no longer seen as mainly objects, but now have an active role in their communities. FGM and GBV are discussed progressively and traditional roles are accessible for change. The active work ISF and the partner organizations have done towards gender equality seems to be paying off. The visibility of power can also be

seen in the transparency of actions that both the partner organizations and ISF enforce. Outside structures affect this, since formal rules and procedures must be followed. These safeguard organizations from corruption and other *hidden power* structures.

The actions carried out by ISF and the partner organizations are directed to tackle issues in sharing power and participation. The community based approach takes also the traditional roles into consideration and aims at opening up spaces and forms of power. It is not possible to know for certain how much this has affected the sharing of power in the communities, but according to the data in this study, it would seem that power structures are becoming more transparent.

6.3 Recommendations for ISF

ISF's strong urge to enhance participation and empower women has definitely been beneficial. The data suggests that female participation has increased considerably with local civil organizations and it has benefited the communities they operate in during ISF's presence. Consequently, it is recommendable to maintain these actions in the future and perhaps make them even more distinct.

Transparency policies seem to follow a certain protocol inside the partner organizations which has made visibility of actions clear. With that being said, there are still some misunderstandings of the processes of project work on the part of the project workers. It might be desirable to make the processes of project work even clearer. Still this does not lessen the good work already done.

Listening to the propositions of project workers was one suggestion derived from the data. Some project workers might feel that their ideas are not readily taken into consideration. Therefore it would be advisable to take note of these suggestions and follow them through.

The theoretical approaches used in this study are closely connected to the aims of ISF and the conductors of this thesis feel they could be used in the future to evaluate and analyse the efficacy of the operations in other target countries.

7 Discussion

In this chapter the limitations of this study, ethical considerations and reliability will be discussed. It also includes the closing words of the conductors of this study.

The sample in this thesis is quite representative of the partner organizations that work in Somaliland. However, the results cannot be generalized very widely since the sample is very specific to a certain organization and area.

7.1 Limitations

There were some issues regarding the questionnaire. It is possible that some of the questions were not as coherent as they could have been, even though they were thoroughly evaluated and pre-tested. The layout of the questionnaire might have been too ambiguous, since some of the respondents did not reply to all of the questions. Some of the questions had multiple parts, and it might not have been evident that they should all be filled out. These issues might also be attributed to the degree of sensitivity felt by the respondents or because they did not read the introductory letter (appendix 3), which was attached on the questionnaire, thoroughly.

Another issue in this study was being aware of the language used, since it might affect the outcome of the study (Warren, 2002). Although all participants, respondents and conductors alike, were fluent in English, there were some differences in how the language was used. The interpretation of the questions and the application of some words were of concern. It seems, despite of this, that the main ideas were commonly understood and the conductors of this study comprehended the content of the responses in most instances. If this was not the case, the data was ignored.

7.2 Ethical considerations and reliability

Assuring respondents of confidentiality is key in qualitative research on-line (Mann&Stewart,p. 57, 2000). Ackeroyd (1991 cited in Mann & Stewart, 2000, p. 39)

points out that whenever utilizing the internet as a means of qualitative research one must be aware of the legal and privacy conditions. In this study anonymity and confidentiality were secured through number coding; once all the responses were received they were randomly numbered and only handled by these numbers. When the analysis was done, the responses were erased.

Anonymity was guaranteed by informing the respondents that only the conductors of this study would read their answers and that their identity would not be revealed. It was clarified that ISF would not be able to see the answers at any stage. Nonetheless, some respondents may have answered in a way that was expected of them by ISF. Undeniably the question of power is always present and must be taken into consideration when conducting a study like this (Dunbar et al, p. 291, 2002).

Thomas *et al.* (1998 cited in Mann & Stewart, p.47, 2000) on the other hand assert that legality is not the only thing determining boundaries on-line, there must be ethical considerations as well. Having the consent of the respondents is one of these considerations (Bailey, p. 73, 1994). In this case it was guaranteed by letting the respondents know that they could themselves choose whether or not to take part in the study.

In addition to these factors the conductors of this study wanted to ensure that the respondents would not be interfered, and therefore influenced, by others. For this purpose they were encouraged to fill out the questionnaire in a calm and quiet place. They were also advised not to discuss the questionnaire with others.

7.3 Closing words

As students, we had no previous experience in organizing this kind of research. Composing and conducting a questionnaire like this was new for us and, hence, there were some constraints to this study. Nonetheless, we feel that we succeeded well in what we set out to do.

We hope that the findings in our thesis will be useful for further development of cooperation between ISF and their partner organizations. We also feel that this study has helped clarify that ISF has reached some of the goals that they have set for their operations. As discussed in the beginning of this thesis, the idea behind this study was to gather information for the working life partner on the concepts of civil society participa-

tion and gender equality. These were some of the themes of the forthcoming action plan of ISF for the years 2016-2018. This study was used as a background analysis for the compilation of the said action plan. Our study supported the preparation process, during which ISF contemplated the role of these aims in their work strengthening civil society.

Conducting this thesis was a valuable learning experience for us. This will assist us if we want to conduct research in our future careers. It was also an excellent opportunity for us to network with development co-operation agents, since we both aspire to work in an international setting.

“A nation is democratic to the extent that its citizens are involved, particularly at the community level. The confidence and competence to be involved must be gradually acquired through practice. ”

- Roger Hart (1992)



Picture 6, Children in Somaliland by Jenni Gästgivar (2015)

References

Adams, R. (2008), *Empowerment, participation and social work*, 4th edition, New York: Palgrave MacMillan

ADO Agriculture Development Organization (2013), *Brief ADO Background*, (online), Available at: <http://adosom.org/index.php/about-us> (Accessed: 8.7.2015)

Alonso, J:A & Glennie, J. (2015), *What is Development Cooperation?* (online) Available at: http://www.un.org/en/ecosoc/newfunct/pdf15/2016_dcf_policy_brief_no.1.pdf (Accessed: 22.6..2015)

Andersson, J.J (2002), (Picture of Somaliland flag) *Flags of the World*. (online) Available at: <https://flagspot.net/flags/so-mlan.html> (Accessed: 28.7.2015)

Arnstein, Sherry R. (1969), *A Ladder of Citizen Participation*, JAIP, Vol. 35, No. 4, pp. 216-224, available online at: <http://lithgow-schmidt.dk/sherry-arnstein/ladder-of-citizen-participation.html> (Accessed: 12.12.2014)

Aura, Siru (2015), *Picture of women learning*, Solidaarisuus

Bailey, K.D. (1994), *Methods of social research.*, 4th edition, New York: Free Press

BBC News (2015), *Somaliland profile*, (online). Available at: <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-14115069> (Accessed: 6.6.2015)

Bird, K., Luttrell, C., Quiroz, S. and Scrutton, C. (2009), *Understanding and Operationalizing Empowerment*, working paper, Overseas Development Institute

Braun V., Clarke V. (2013), *Successful qualitative research - a guide for beginners*, London: SAGE Publications

CLHE Candlelight for Health and Education (2015), *About US*, (online) Available at: <http://www.candlelightsomal.org/> (Accessed: 8.7.2015)

Cornwall, A. (2002), *Beneficiary, Consumer, Citizen: Perspectives on Participation for Poverty Reduction*. Gothenburg: Elanders Novum AB

Degnbol-Martinussen, J. & Engberg-Pedersen, P. (2003), *Aid: Understanding International Development Cooperation*, trans. Marie Bille, London: Zed Books Ltd

Dunbar C.Jr, Parker L.&Rodriquez D. (2002), Race, Subjectivity, and the Interview Process. In: Gubrium J.F.&Holstein J.A. (eds) (2002), *Handbook of Interview Research: Context&Method*, London,Sage Publications Ltd, pp. 279-298

Edwards, S. (2014), *Economic Development and the Effectiveness of Foreign Aid: A Historical Perspective*. (online) CEPR's Policy Portal. Available at: <http://www.voxeu.org/article/development-and-foreign-aid-historical-perspective> (Accessed: 26.6.2015)

Freedom House (2014), *Somaliland*, (online), available at: <https://freedomhouse.org/report/freedom-world/2014/somaliland#.VXad3mOHqZV>, (Accessed: 6.6.2015)

Gaventa, J (2006), *Finding the Spaces for Change: A Power Analysis*. (online). Powercube.net Available at: http://www.powercube.net/wp-content/uploads/2009/12/finding_spaces_for_change.pdf (Accessed: 1.12.2014)

Gaventa, J. (2005), *Reflections on the Uses of the 'Power Cube' Approach for Analyzing the Spaces, Places and Dynamics of Civil Society Participation and Engagement*. (online). Mfp Breed Network. Available at: http://www.participatorymethods.org/sites/participatorymethods.org/files/reflections_on_uses_powercube.pdf (Accessed: 1.3.2015)

Gaventa, J. (2006), (Picture of the Power Cube) *Finding the Spaces for Change: A Power Analysis*. (online) http://www.powercube.net/wp-content/uploads/2009/12/finding_spaces_for_change.pdf (Accessed: 1.12.2014)

Gibson N. and O'Connor H. (2003), *A step-by-step Guide to Qualitative Data Analysis*, Pimatiziwin: A Journal of Aboriginal and Indigenous Community Health 1(1), pp.64-90

Guest G., MacQueen K.M., Namey E.E. (2012), *Applied thematic analysis*, SAGE Publications Inc., (online), available at: <http://www.sagepub.com/books/Book233379#tabview=title>, (Accessed: 12.3.2105)

Gästgivar, Jenni (2015), *Picture of children in Somaliland*, Solidaarisuus

Gästgivar, Jenni (2015), *Picture of women on the computer*, Solidaarisuus

Gästgivar, Jenni (2015), *Picture of market in Somaliland*, Solidaarisuus

Hart, R.A. (1992), *Children's Participation - From tokenism to citizenship* (pdf), Florence: UNICEF International Child Development Centre, (online) available at: http://www.unicef-irc.org/publications/pdf/childrens_participation.pdf, (Accessed: 24.1.2015)

Joinson, A.J. (2001), *Self-disclosure in computer-mediated communication: The role of self-awareness and visual anonymity*. *European Journal of Social Psychology*, (e-journal) 31. Available through: Metropolia University of Applied Sciences Library: <https://metropolia.finna.fi/> (Accessed: 15.3.2015)

Kääriäinen, M. (2014), *Kehitysavun Kirous*, Riika: Into Kustannus

Kvale, S. (2007), *Doing Interviews*. London: Sage Publications

Lewis I.M. (2008), *Somalia ja Somalimaa - Kulttuuri, historia ja yhteiskunta*, trans. Leif Sundström, UK: C. Hurst & Co. Publishers, Ltd

Lukes, S. (1974), *Power: A radical view*. London: Macmillan Education Ltd

Mann, C. & Stewart, F. (2000), *Internet Communication and Qualitative Research*, London: Sage Publications

Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland (2015), *Objectives and principles of Finland's development policy*, online document, available at:

<http://formin.finland.fi/public/default.aspx?nodeid=49312&contentlan=2&culture=en-US#Objectives> (Accessed: 21.2.2015)

Moyo, D. (2009), *Dead Aid*, London: Penguin Group

NAFIS Network against FGM/C in Somaliland (2015), *What we do*, (online), available at: <http://www.nafisnetwork.net/index.php/what-we-do> , accessed on 8.7.2015

Oxford Policy Management (2013), *A Framework for Analysing Participation in Development*, Oxford Policy Management

Robson C. (2009), *How to do a research project - a guide for undergraduate students*, 4th edition, Oxford, Blackwell Publishing

Solidaarisuus (2013), *The International Solidarity Foundation's Development Cooperation Programme 2013-2015*, Solidaarisuus

Solidaarisuus (2015a), *Vuosiraportti 2014: LIITE 6 Solidaarisuuden hankkeiden arviointia*, Solidaarisuus

Solidaarisuus (2015b), *Maanviljelijöiden ja paimentolaisten toimeentulon vahvistaminen*, (online), available at: <http://www.solidaarisuus.fi/kehityshanke/maanviljelijoiden-ja-paimentolaisten-toimeentulon-vahvistaminen/>, (Accessed: 7.7.2015)

Solidaarisuus (2015c), *Ruokaturvan parantaminen*, (online), available at: <http://www.solidaarisuus.fi/kehityshanke/ruokaturvan-kehittaminen/> , (Accessed: 7.7.2015)

Solidaarisuus (2015d), *Sukuelinten silpomisen ehkäisy ja järjestöjen verkostoituminen*, (online), available at: <http://www.solidaarisuus.fi/kehityshanke/sukuelinten-silpomisen-ehkaisy-ja-jarjestojen-verkostoituminen/> , (Accessed: 7.7.2015)

Solidaarisuus (2015e), *Naisiin kohdistuvan väkivallan ehkäisy*, (online), available at: <http://www.solidaarisuus.fi/kehityshanke/naisiin-kohdistuvan-vakivallan-ehkaisy/> , (Accessed: 7.7.2015)

SOYDAVO (2015), *Info*, (online), available at:
https://www.facebook.com/SOYDAVO.Burao/info?tab=page_info, (Accessed:
8.7.2015)

UN (2010), *Millenium Development Goals: At a Glance*.(online). Available at:
http://www.un-kampagne.de/fileadmin/downloads/presse/MDGs-at-a-Glance-enql-03-2010_02.pdf (Accessed:4.7.2015)

Voron, Sam, (2009) *Map of Somaliland*, (online). Available at:
<https://sites.google.com/site/somaliahamradio/somalia-map> (Accessed 17.8.2015)

Warren C.A.B. (2002), Qualitative interviewing. In: Gubrium J.F.& Holstein J.A. (eds) (2002), *Handbook of Interview Research: Context&Method*, London,Sage Publications Ltd, pp.83-101

Questionnaire

1. How many years has your organization been working in co-operation with ISF?
less than 1 1-5 over 5
2. How would you describe your everyday work in the project(s)?
3. Please describe the selection process for the beneficiaries who will participate in the project(s)?
4. ISF donates funds to your operations. Please explain,
 - a. who determines which project(s) to fund, your organization or ISF?
 - b. who designs the projects?
5. How do you share information about your project(s) and their aims with
 - a. the members of the community(s) you work in?
 - b. other members of society?
6. Please describe,
 - a. How do the leaders and other community members react to the projects implemented by your organization?
 - b. Does it affect the level of participation in the projects?
 - c. If so, how?
7. Please describe,
 - a. Have other members in the communities you work in tried to affect how you operate?
 - b. If so, how?
8. Do beneficiaries learn new skills in the projects which enhance their level of participation in their community?
9. Please explain,
 - a. Do you feel the co-operation with ISF has influenced participation in the communities your organization works in?
 - b. If so, how?

10. In your projects, have you witnessed differences in levels of participation between men and women?

11. Have men and women taken on different kind of duties after taking part in the projects?

- a. in their family
- b. in their community? Please, give some examples.

12. In your opinion, during your co-operation with ISF have women participated more than before

- a. in your organization
- b. implementation in the projects and
- c. the communities?

13. How would you describe your organization as a political actor in your society? Please, elaborate.

14. ISF has the goal to enhance solidarity, equality, equity and participation.

- a. What are your organization's long term/short term goals according to these?
- b. How are they negotiated and reached in co-operation with ISF?

15. Do you feel your organization is dependent on the help of ISF or are you able to operate independently? Please, elaborate.

16. How can ISF help your organization in the future to enhance participation in the communities you work in?

Questions for the land co-ordinator

1. How long have you been working for ISF in Somaliland?
2. What kind of changes in the level of wellbeing have you seen in Somaliland during your stay?
3. Has the presence of ISF and other development co-operation organizations enhanced Somaliland's progress towards peace and democracy?
4. What is the role of ISF's partner organizations in this process?
5. In your opinion, how have the communities you work in reacted to ISF's presence in Somaliland? How about society at large?
6. How does the selection process for the partner organizations work? How do you find the partners and how do you choose whom to work with?
7. Who decides which projects are funded, ISF or the partner organizations? On what grounds are the projects chosen?
8. How do leaders and other community members react to the projects implemented by your partner organizations? How does it affect the level of participation in the projects?
9. Have there been any challenges in the implementation of projects with the partner organizations? How about in the communities? What have they been?
10. Do beneficiaries learn new skills in the projects which enhance their level of participation in their community?
11. Has the level of participation changed in the communities you work in during the projects? If so, how?

12. During the projects, have you witnessed differences in levels of participation between genders?
13. Have men and women taken on different kind of duties in their family after taking part in the projects? What about in their community? How?
14. Do you feel the partner NGO`s are political actors in their society?
15. Do you think the partner organizations are dependent on ISF`s help?
16. What are ISF`s short term goals in Somaliland? How are they ne-gotiated and reached with the partners? How about long term goals?

Introductory letter with instructions

Dear Co-operation Partners of ISF

We are two social work students from Metropolia University of Applied Sciences in Helsinki, Finland. We are interested in global issues and that is why we contacted International Solidarity Foundation (ISF) in order to work together with them on our final thesis. ISF is planning their new development co-operation programme for the year 2016 and they would like to incorporate new ideas about participation in it. We are conducting this questionnaire to find out how the co-operation between ISF and your organization have helped enhance participation in your society.

We would be very interested in hearing your opinions on this matter. Your opinion is of great value to us. With your help we are able to learn new things about participation in your organizations and community(s). This information can then be utilized in the co-operation between your organization and ISF.

Filling out the questionnaire will take some time. We hope that this is not an inconvenience to you. If possible, can you be so kind as to fill out the questionnaire in a quiet and calm place. Furthermore, please try not to talk to others in your organization about the questions you have answered. This is to ensure the authenticity of the answers given to us. We would also like to emphasize that there are no right or wrong answers, only your perception on the matters discussed in the questionnaire.

The questionnaire is comprised of open ended questions, some have two parts. Please, answer in your own words and as honestly as possible. The results will be handled confidentially and your identity will not be revealed during any part of the process. ISF is not able to see the answers you will give, we will be the only ones who have access to them. We will not see your names. ISF and your co-operation organizations will see only the end result.

There are some terms we are using repeatedly in the questionnaire, to make sure we all understand them in the same way we will open up these terms. By "participant" we mean any persons who are taking part in your projects. By "project" we refer to the projects you and ISF are working on together.

Once you have filled out the questionnaire, please email it to us to as an attachment to an email. Please, do not copy paste it straight to the email, as this will not guarantee full anonymity.

Instructions:

Thank you for taking part in this questionnaire. Below will be explained how to fill it out:

Filling out the questionnaire will take some time. We hope that this is not an inconvenience to you. If possible, can you be so kind as to fill out the questionnaire in a quiet and calm place. Furthermore, please try not to talk to others in your organization about the questions you have answered. This is to ensure the authenticity of the answers given. We would also like to emphasize that there are no right or wrong answers, only your perception on the matters discussed in the questionnaire.

The questionnaire is comprised of open ended questions and some of them have two or more parts. Please, answer in your own words and as honestly as possible. Your answers can be as lengthy as you feel necessary. The results will be handled confidentially and your identity will not be revealed during any part of the process. ISF is not able to see the answers you will give, we will be the only ones who have access to them. We will not see your names. Moreover, ISF and your co-operation organizations will only be able to see the end results.

There are some terms we are using repeatedly in the questionnaire, to make sure we all understand them in the same way we will open up these terms:

By “beneficiary” we mean any person(s) who are taking part in your projects.

By “project” we refer to the projects you and ISF are working on together.

By “participation” we refer to the active engagement of beneficiaries in the management of their lives, families and communities.

Once you have filled out the questionnaire, please email it to us to as an attachment to an email. Please, do not copy paste it straight to the email, as this will not guarantee full anonymity.

Our thesis will be available for you in the fall of this year.

If you have any questions regarding our questionnaire you can contact us via email at any time:

nina.toija@metropolia.fi or rauha.vesterinen@metropolia.fi .

Yours sincerely

Nina Toija & Rauha Vesterinen