



Afwayne towns in the eastern part. Our team travelled through the eastern part and our impression was that the road is making much difference. Both in shortening and smoothing the travel time while also contributing to more economic activities in the region.

However, the Sanaag region still remains the most isolated and least developed region in Somaliland. It is also a border region, which makes it more vulnerable to instability and unpredictability.

The climate in Borama was welcoming and the atmosphere was enjoyable. The local facilitator was also very helpful in identifying and contacting respondents for the interviews.

social systems. Though some women agreed that there are men (mostly men working in NGOs) that are supportive of women and their rights, women activists thought that the civil society organisations led by men could do more to advocate for women's rights.

Preliminary findings on the interviews conducted in Borama:

- Most respondents did not distinguish between sex/biological and gender/socially constructed roles, i.e. they viewed gender roles as the work (work in the household for instance) that is assigned to women to be naturally ordained. Women's work was seen as unsuitable for men and men who do work associated with women is seen as lesser men. On the other hand women who do any work associated with men are seen as having "raganimo" /masculinity which has a good connotation.
- One of the things respondents mentioned regarding how the conflict and war has impacted on the way society sees women is how women are appreciated more due to their hard work and economic contribution during the war.
- Islam was a crucial element in all aspects of the respondents thinking, attitude, what they want to say etc.
- The 'good traits' respondents associated with women included, modesty, kindness and keeping /handling money. "Good men" were mostly seen as those who could solve conflicts and take economic responsibilities of their families.
- Some of the political positions/roles that women can not/should not hold include being judges, imams (prayer leaders in mosques) and presidents of nations.
- A lot of conservative ideas could be deducted from the respondent's responses in the way women are viewed.
- Some elderly men recognized the changing roles of women in the Somali society.
- There were contradicting perceptions of men and women; men are against the widening of the economic and social space for women. Instead they claim that the best place for women is at home, taking care of children.
- Women activities and women in government employment said that they were happy with the changing roles of women and insisted that it will improve gradually.

- There were views that men can be less violent when living in a peaceful place, have enough education. Rule of law implemented also reduces the violence

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