



ARTS FOR SOCIAL CHANGE

An approach to build resilient, inclusive
and peaceful communities in Somalia



Somalia has been facing various forms of shocks, violence and conflict, as well as social inequality, accelerated urbanization, migrations, fragmentation and polarization.

In this respect culture, arts and creativity may empower individuals, communities, and societies at large to promote change, foster inclusion and respond more creatively and effectively to various forms of shocks and disruptions. Culture and the arts can inspire innovative thinking, generate adaptive and creative solutions, opening up promising opportunities to harness civic imagination for greater cohesion and resilience.

ART FOR SOCIAL CHANGE



Individually art can provide a safe space to connect, develop a sense of belonging and identity, self-awareness and express difficult feelings and experiences through verbal and non-verbal means. Art helps to feel, think, and see differently. It provokes and informs imagination, inspires change that can lead to a potential transformation. These are conditions for increased capacity to recover from and cope with shocks, to find viable solutions, to make better choices and manage challenges in a peaceful and self-reliant way.

Collectively art can support community to promote change and build resilience. A community that comes together to listen to differences, can mediate and recognize that each differing point of view deserves respect and understanding. Guiding a community to jointly create an art for change project compels all members to be engaged through active listening and collaboration. This allows them to develop empathy and to experience views beyond their own comfort zone, to have honest and deep dialogues and to imagine and create positive change together.

10 added values of an Art based approach

An art based approach can be used:

01

For **psychosocial support and trauma healing**, to address more sensitive aspects of resilience like recovering from conflict and violence, dealing with exclusion, trauma, stress and stigmatization, harvesting the therapeutic and healing effects of arts to create conditions for change.

02

To engage with **vulnerable, excluded and voiceless** groups like youth, children, women, minorities and IDPs, helping them to express their feelings and opinions.

03

In **schools** where Art for Social Change methodologies can be used with children to address issues related to discrimination, exclusion, GBV etc. in an unconventional and more interactive and participatory way.

04

For **livelihood and job creation** in the creative sector, especially for youth.

05

For **campaigns and events**, to convey messages identified during consultations, to wider communities through audio-visuals and performing arts.



06

For **capacity building and consultations** to integrate traditional techniques and tools with more innovative and intuitive ones, increasing creative and critical thinking and sparking innovative problem solving.

07

For **community mobilization and engagement** leveraging on Somali's traditional receptivity for arts, culture, storytelling, theatre, ensuring more active participation, and authentic, playful and passionate engagement to promote change and resilience.

08

For **cohesion and peacebuilding** creating alternative platforms for individual, community and intercommunity resilience building where arts offer opportunities for active listening, collaboration, acceptance of diversity, safe spaces for expression and envisioning of change.

09

For **attitude and behavior change** to promote and measure at individual and community level, that are conducive to build resilience.

10

To **monitor and evaluate**, art can be used as an additional M&E and impact evaluation tool, together with more traditional tools.

METHODOLOGIES AND TOOLS



CISP has experimented different types of arts methodologies, that can be used to address specific topics (inclusion, peace, resilience, identity, gender etc.) and promote change. Each technique can be adapted to the context and needs of a specific project.

Some of the methodologies used by CISP, with the support of experienced and specialized professionals, are **Participatory theatre** (*Theatre of the Oppressed*), **Body Mapping**, **Photovoice**, **Spatial Mapping** and **Placemaking**, **Public Art**.

Theatre of the Oppressed

A form of participatory theatre that provides tools for people to explore collective struggles, analyze their history and experiment possible options. Both, actors and public are involved in the performance and offer solutions to societal issues. It encompasses different techniques and games that seek to restore true dialogue and create space for participants to take action, enhancing real change in their daily lives. The theatre becomes a space for them to practice and act out the process of actively fighting oppression and imagining different possibilities for their communities.

 <https://youtu.be/WOLRYh7kCMM>

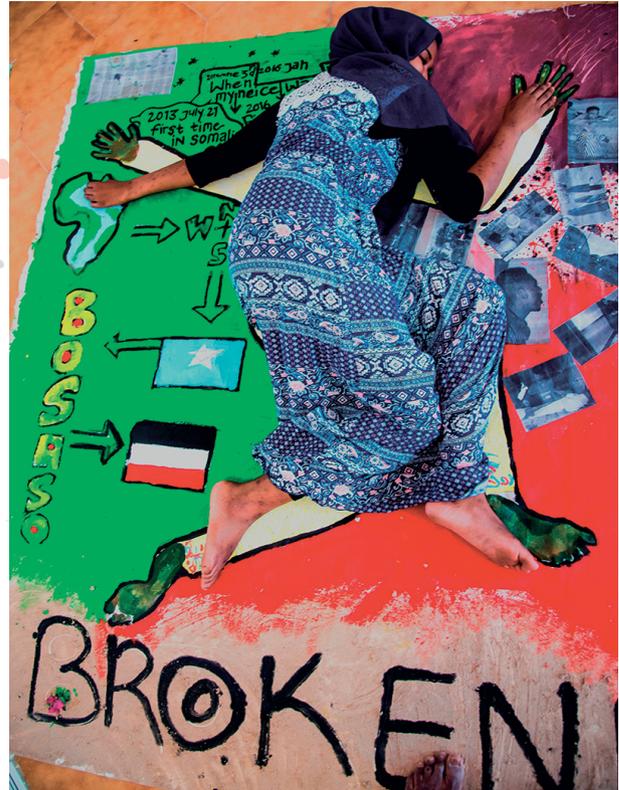


Body Mapping

Inspired by the memory tool method, it is a very 'experiential' approach for individuals and groups. It involves painting a life-size representation of one's body onto a large surface and using colours, pictures, symbols and words to represent experiences that show the path that one has taken through life.

The final artworks have the potential to create a better understanding between people and break down some of the existing barriers related to race, religion, ethnic group, social class, and gender inequality. The use of Body mapping enabled reviving cultural dialogue and expression, enhancing peaceful dialogue through exchange and self-expression. It brings a non-conflict related dimensions of Somali identity into focus.

 www.culture4inclusion.org/resources



Photovoice

An empowering process that combines photography with grassroots social action. Through photography, participants bring new insights and perspectives which raise awareness of hidden or overlooked issues within the community. Narratives are developed that explain how the photos highlight a particular theme. These narratives are then used to promote dialogue and understanding and to trigger change in the community. They help in developing effective solutions and programs that address relevant issues and needs.

It can also be used as a qualitative method for impact assessment and data collection during monitoring activities.

 <https://www.culture4inclusion.org/stories-from-somalia>





Public Art

It can lay the foundations for more inclusive and resilient societies, through urban regeneration and public engagement. It is a platform for civic dialogue and advocacy for the rights of the most marginalized groups. It improves community cohesion, transforms the ways individuals interact in and with public spaces, and builds safer urban environments. It reinforces social connectivity and provides a sense of belonging. Public art projects have also the potential of shaping new models of participatory art practice.

 <https://youtu.be/6qYFRaZTNBw>



Storytelling

Stories convey values and emotions and can reveal the differences and similarities between people's experiences. Storytelling can enhance personal and group resilience by drawing on positive emotions and creating support networks that foster a sense of belonging. View link to the book "*Stories of Women and Girls of Mogadishu*".

 www.culture4inclusion.org/resources

Communication for development (C4D)

It promotes participation and social change using the methods and tools of interpersonal communication, community media and modern information technologies. It is a cross-cutting activity in project management, aimed at strengthening dialogue with beneficiaries, partners and authorities in order to enhance local ownership of programs and generate a sustainable impact.





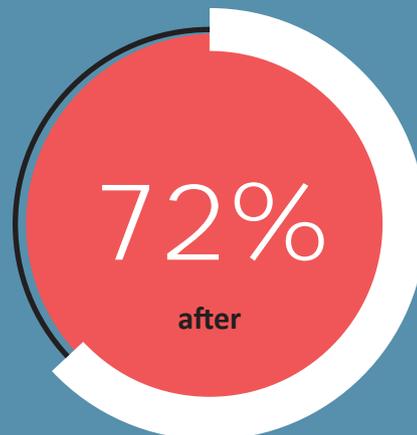
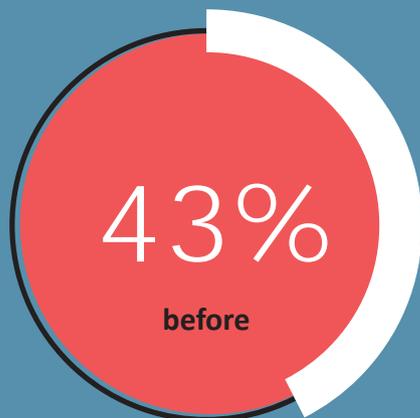
WHAT ARE THE **IMPACTS?**

Several researches have confirmed that participation in art projects and activities is effective in creating social capital with increased interpersonal relationships, stronger sense of belonging renewed trust and cooperation. These factors can easily generate conditions for social change. Proven positive effects of artistic activities on participants can result in **increased self-confidence and sense of gency, increased creativity and critical thinking skills, creation of social capital, enhanced capacity to respond to shocks** (natural disasters, conflicts and poverty).
Jermyn 2001, Barraket, 2005.

M&E activities and impact assessment of “**Art for social change methodologies**” in CISP programs in Somalia, show that both participation in art productions and being an audience of art activities increases sense of agency, belonging, self-esteem and self-awareness of individuals, as

well as critical and problem-solving skills. At community level the results indicate that creative processes foster more inclusive, connected, collaborative communities. They increase trust, social cohesion, ability to self-organize, respond and adapt to change.

Sense of Agency before and after “Art for Social Change” Workshop



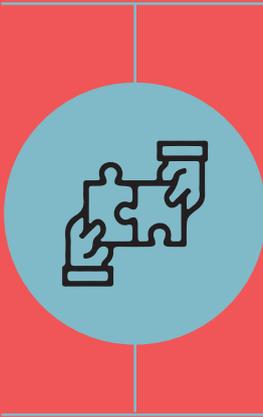
CISP EXPERTISE

CISP has been using “Art for social change methodologies” in its programs in Somalia since 2014, working with vulnerable groups of women, youth, minorities and IDPs. The approach leverages on the power of art and communication to promote more resilient, inclusive and peaceful communities and is focusing on barriers related to cultural and social norms, knowledge, connection and sense of agency at individual and community level. It also supports the creation and dissemination of products and messages that promote inclusion and diversity as a human right and a value for a more sustainable society. CISP works with a pool of specialized consultants to support the implementation of the different activities, ensuring that quality, professionalism and sustainable impact are achieved.



Main components of CISP's Art based approach

CO-PRODUCTION
of real and virtual art
and cultural spaces/
events



Self expression,
Creativity, Proximity,
Connection, Trust,
Healing, Power,
Confidence

CAPACITY BUILDING
of local actors



Skills, Knowledge,
Resources,
Power, Access

**CONSULTATIONS
AND COMMUNITY
DIALOGUES**



Values, Beliefs, Safety,
Self Expression,
Power, Identity, Trust,
Connection

**COMMUNICATION
AND SHARING**
of research findings and
practices for learning



Self expression,
Creativity, Proximity,
Connection, Trust,
Healing, Power,
Confidence

what we can do

- Consultations and need assessment.
- Development of strategy, plans, budgets and M&E tools for Art for Social Change projects/components.
- Training and capacity building of staff on Art for Social change approach and methodologies OR deploy our team in the field.
- Implementation and supervision of Art for Social Change projects/components in larger programs.
- Organization of cultural events, exhibitions, campaigns, public art project and creation of inclusive spaces/platform for dialogue and exchange.
- Development and coordination of audio-visual productions.
- Awareness campaigns and advocacy actions using Art for Social Change approach.
- Culture and Arts activities in schools with teachers and students.
- M&E and Impact evaluation of Arts methodologies on inclusion, resilience and peacebuilding.



PROJECT PARTNERS

Somalia Federal Government, Somali institutions, NGOs and CSOs,
EU, UKAid, DFID, UNICEF, OCHA, WFP, UNFPA, UNESCO,
Italian Cooperation Agency (AICS), Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation,
Relief international, ADRA, ARC, World Vision, John Hopkins University,
CDN, ART2BE, Parteciparte.



“Ma laba taariibaa? Maxaan dalkeeyga ugu wacanayn kooxda ku lahaa? Maxaan shaqo u wacanay? Dhalmiyarada waa in loo sameeyo mustaqbal si aay dalkeeda u jooqaan uguna shaqeysootaan.

@soobir



“Hadaan garwaqaano macnaha iyo qiimaha wadaniyadda iyo waxbarashada, wasaan heleeynaa bulsho siman iyo dal nabad ah.

@halima



“Ama caws gad ama da shaqaa Sharaf le...”

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