

COHF PROFILE



About Us.

At a glance.

Inspired by a story of a young mother who felt hopelessness after being cast off by her partner and her own family, Candle of Hope Foundation (COHF) was founded by a group of women with vast experience in humanitarian and development mission to offer hope to the voiceless and hopeless by assisting them find a safe and secure warm shelters, household livelihoods and optimistic future.

Insight to who we are:

Candle of Hope Foundation (COHF) is a multinational NGO that operates both nationally and regionally across East Africa. We are a multi-faceted women led organization that has been operational in Kenya, Somaliland and Somalia since 2016 implementing humanitarian & development initiatives through community-initiated programs that enhance empowerment, sustainability and resilience. COHF has its main offices in Nairobi (Kenya), Mogadishu (Somalia) and Hargeisa (Somaliland).

With a core mandate to promote dignity, resilience, and inclusive development, COHF is driven by the vision of a society where no one is left behind due to poverty, gender discrimination, displacement, or climate vulnerability. Established with deep grassroots foundations, COHF has earned a strong reputation across Kenya's arid and semi-arid lands (ASALs) for delivering impactful programs that place people and equity at the center of sustainable development.

COHF employs a people-first approach, placing affected communities especially women, youth, and vulnerable populations at the forefront of designing, implementing, and sustaining transformative interventions. Its programming integrates key pillars of gender equality, youth empowerment, climate resilience, economic inclusion, and social protection, with a strong emphasis on locally led solutions.

The organization has extensive operational and programmatic experience in Marsabit, Makueni and Kitui counties, where it has implemented livelihood and resilience-building initiatives that have benefited thousands of households. These include agri-enterprise development, e-voucherbased cash transfers for food security, youth skills training in climate-smart agriculture, and the establishment of women-led savings and credit groups (VSLAs).

COHF in 2025 expanded its reach in Kajiado County, forming strategic relationships with local stakeholders to implement programs focused on gender and development inclusive livestock value chains and drought resilience.

Beyond Kenya, COHF has demonstrated its regional relevance and operational scalability through cross-border engagements, most notably in Somaliland.

COHF has provided technical assistance and community mobilization support for programs aimed at improving food security, rangeland management, and economic opportunities for displaced and host communities in fragile ecosystems. This work included community consultations, participatory assessments, and piloting gender-inclusive livelihood approaches in conflict-affected pastoralist settings. COHF's ability to effectively navigate complex humanitarian and development settings while maintaining cultural sensitivity and accountability has positioned it as a trusted partner in regional initiatives.

COHF's experience with FAO Somalia, FAO Kenya, International Organization for Migration (IOM), GIZ underscores its capacity to support resilience-building interventions in drought-prone and conflict-affected areas, including efforts to integrate women and youth into livestock production, natural resource management, and early warning systems. Its familiarity with FAO operational standards, safeguarding principles, and Results-Based Management frameworks ensures strong alignment with international best practices.

Across all geographies, COHF's model emphasizes the empowerment of women and youth as agents of change, creating enabling environments for them to access productive resources, markets, skills, and decision-making platforms. Candle of Hope Foundation works together with county governments, local CBOs, and community leaders to ensure sustainability and scalability of its interventions. It also engages in policy dialogue, capacity strengthening, and community mobilization efforts to address structural barriers to equity and development.

COHF's commitment to inclusive and locally owned development continues to guide its work across Kenya and the greater Horn of Africa. By linking field-level action to national and regional policy priorities, the foundation contributes meaningfully to SDGs 1, 2, 5, 8, and 13, advancing economic opportunity and social justice for marginalized populations across borders.

Core Values

- Respect for humanity, cultural diversity and sensitivity,
- Integrity
- Transparency & Accountability
- Democracy
- Gender Equality
- Inclusivity and Equity



Our Presence

COHF has its presence across Kenya, Somalia and Somaliland. In recent years, our organization has achieved significant growth, both in terms of the number of beneficiaries we target as well as the overall partner collaborations in the regional Humanitarian Aid sector.

COHF has its head and field offices in Nairobi, Busia, Kajiado, Makueni, Kitui, Turkana, Isiolo, Moyale, Wajir, Marsabit, Mandera and Garissa, in Kenya as well as in Hargeisa, Berbera, Burco and Owdweyne, all in Somaliland

Thematic Expertise

1. Livelihoods and Youth Empowerment

Delivered multi-sectoral livelihood support using digital cash transfer and e-voucher systems, reaching over 2,000 households in Makueni and Kitui.

Candle of Hope Foundation (COHF), a community-anchored organization, has continued to demonstrate its capacity to deliver inclusive, impactful, and well-coordinated humanitarian and development interventions across Kenya's arid and semi-arid lands. A recent example is the successful implementation of the project "Livelihoods Support to Vulnerable Communities Affected by Drought in Makueni and Kitui Counties," implemented in partnership with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO Kenya) from September 2023 to June 2024.

This intervention, which reached 2,000 households (1,000 crop-producing and 1,000 livestockkeeping households), marked a continuation of a previous phase concluded in December 2023.

The project exemplifies how COHF combines technical excellence, local engagement, and adaptive programming to mitigate the effects of drought and strengthen resilience. One of the project's most significant achievements was the robust coordination mechanisms established through County Steering Group (CSG), Project Implementation Team (PIT), and Sub-County Project Coordination Team meetings. These platforms fostered inclusive planning, harmonized resource allocation, and strengthened alignment with county priorities. As a result, COHF was able to make real-time adjustments and ensure that the project remained responsive to local needs.



Project coordination meetings at County Steering Group (CSG) & Project Implementation Team (PIT)

In the livestock sector, the project enhanced access to quality animal health services, including deworming and vaccination campaigns that reached tens of thousands of cattle, sheep, and goats across both counties. The collaborative engagement of veterinary officers from Makueni and Kitui ensured expert diagnosis and treatment, significantly reducing livestock mortality. This translated into higher productivity and greater drought resilience among pastoralist households.



Animal health services exercise at the counties of Kitui and Makueni

On the agriculture and nutrition front, COHF introduced agro-nutrition training, kitchen garden demonstrations, and distribution of cone garden materials, directly benefiting 1,000 households.

These interventions improved food diversity, dietary practices, and year-round access to safe and nutritious foods. Beneficiaries, particularly pregnant and lactating mothers and households with children under five, reported improved nutrition and food security outcomes.



Training of the community-based facilitators on improved nutrition and food security.

A critical success factor in the project was COHF's ability to mainstream gender equality. Monitoring data confirmed gender-balanced decision-making on the use of agricultural inputs, and women beneficiaries actively participated in training and resource utilization. Additionally, input distribution monitoring identified key challenges, such as security and time spent accessing cash, allowing for informed course correction in future interventions.



Candle of Hope Foundation collaborates with Ripegrow Enterprise Farm to conduct trainings in the counties of Kitui, Kajiado and Makueni on youth and women in climate-smart agriculture (CSA), and value-added agri-business development. 200 women and 300 youth have been reached through farmers field schools, 5 youth-led enterprises established on hydroponics.



The Candle of Hope Foundation Manager (Dennis Muoki), Makueni County demonstrates youth and women on CSA

Candle of Hope Foundations collaborates with Jutom Farm Biz Limited and Ripegrow Enterprises Farm in the counties of Makueni and Kitui to established youth-led enterprise groups supported through business development services, access to start-up capital, and linkage to local markets.

As of May 2025, 10 youth-led businesses were established and 20 youths linked for start-up capital.





Candle of Hope Foundation, in collaboration with local community groups in Makueni and Kitui, conducts hands-on training sessions focused on milk utilization and value addition, including yogurt and mala production. The initiative also promotes vegetable value addition using solar dryers to extend shelf life and reduce post-harvest losses.

These trainings are tailored to equip youth and women with practical agribusiness skills, enabling them to start small enterprises, improve household incomes, and enhance food security. By integrating climate-smart technologies like solar drying, the program fosters environmental sustainability while advancing economic empowerment and creating job opportunities for marginalized community members.



2. Gender Equality and Women's Economic Empowerment

COHF integrates Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI) across all programs. In partnership with World Vision Kenya and International Organization for Migration (IOM), in Marsabit county, COHF has empowered women through tailored training, group formation, access to productive resources, and VSLA facilitation in both rural and peri-urban settings.



In partnership with Il'laramatak Community Concerns (ICC), and World Vision Kenya and IOM Candle of Hope Foundation conducts awareness campaigns on gender-based violence (GBV) and harmful cultural practices while building the agency and leadership of women and girls.



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3. Climate Resilience and Natural Resource Management

In partnership with World Vision Kenya and International Organization for Migration, Candle of Hope Foundation implements climate justice and health initiatives in Marsabit County, including climate adaptation planning, food security improvement, and access to clean water.

In partnership with World Vision Kenya and Il'laramatak Community Concerns (ICC), Candle of Hope Foundation promotes sustainable land management practices, fodder production, agroforestry, and integrated water resource management in Marsabit and Kajiado Counties.



4. Community Health and Social Protection

In partnership with the County Government of Marsabit and World Vision Kenya and International Organization for Migration, Candle of Hope Foundation implements community-based health interventions covering child nutrition, maternal health education, and WASH while also supporting refugee and migrant children through improved education access, psychosocial support, and online child protection training.



Strategic Partnerships

COHF has successfully collaborated with a range of government, civil society, and international partners, including:

PARTNER	COLLABORATION AREA
FAO Kenya	Livelihood interventions-livestock and Crop production in the counties Makueni & Kenya
FAO Somalia	Livelihood interventions in livestock, crop inputs, fisheries and Cash for work activities in the districts of Odweyne, Burao and Berbera in Somaliland
International Organization for Migration (IOM)	Livelihoods support to the vulnerable migrants, refugees, youth and women affected by climate change in the counties of Marsabit and Garissa
Il'laramatak Community Concerns (ICC)	Gender, Child protection and online exploitation awareness and livelihoods support through livestock production in the county of Kajiado.
Ripegrow Enterprises Farm	Youth economic empowerment through climate smart agriculture technologies and agribusiness in Makueni.
Jutom Farm Biz Limited	Capacity building on youth and women agribusiness development in Makueni and Kitui counties.
Ministry of Labour and Social Protection (Kenya)	Social protection and children's rights
Department of Gender – Makueni & Kitui	Women empowerment and policy advocacy
National Drought Management Authority (NDMA)	Drought response and resilience building
World Vision Kenya	Nutrition and WASH programming in ASAL counties
UNHCR & DRC Kenya	Child protection in refugee-hosting areas
Local CBOs and Youth Groups	Field-level mobilization and skills training
Community Health Volunteers (CHVs)	Community outreach and behavioral change communication



Our Capacity

Human Resources

COHF has a well-defined and functional internal organizational structure. COHF works through a number of well resourced (staff, infrastructure, equipment's) field offices. Policy and strategic guidance, leadership and oversight are offered by a diverse and competent Board of Directors (BOD).

COHF has heavily invested in staff training and capacity enhancement at all levels ensuring that its staffs are not only knowledgeable but also well equipped to perform and cope with arising challenges effectively as per the international standards.

Financial Planning

Coupled with a robust finance policy, COHF has a tamper-proof accounting system that has checks and balances ensuring that financial decisions aren't made by one designated officer.

There are in-built internal controls plus a quarterly internal audit that is mandatory. COHF retains the services of an accredited auditor responsible for annual audit its books.

Organizational Capability

COHF is committed to meeting international standards of quality and accountability in all its activities. All programs are geared towards benefiting the target community in the long run without hampering progress none the less.

COHF has a robust and dedicated team of professionals who undertake their tasks with zeal and enthusiasm aimed at setting and establishing standards that are a replica of efficiency and Success.

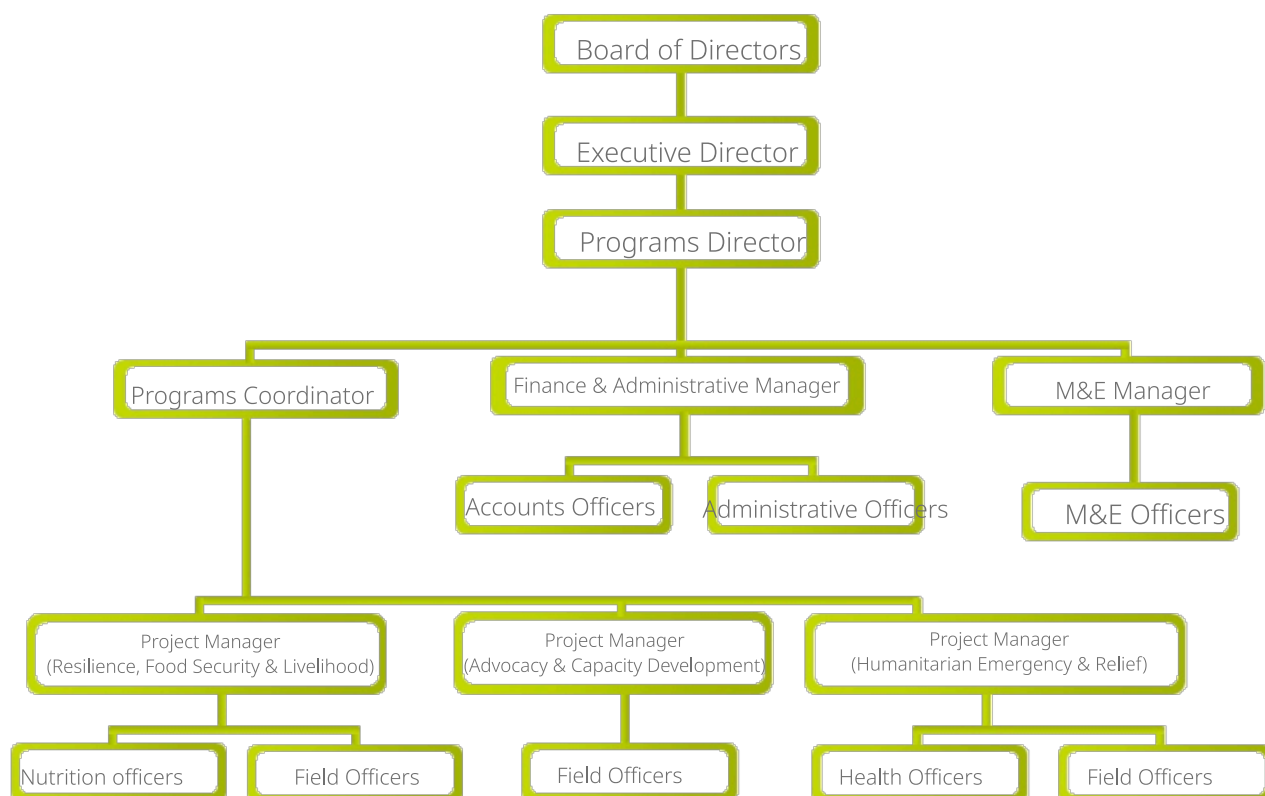
Communication And Logistics

All COHF offices are equipped with GSM Phones & Internet access. A communication policy sets guideline for both internal and external communication.

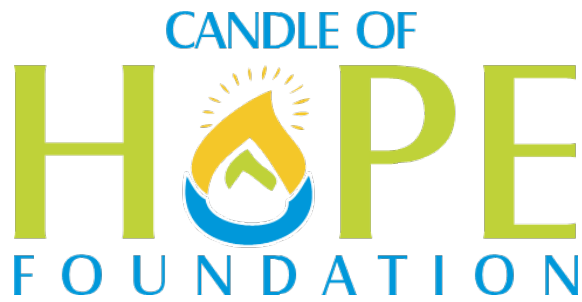
A fully-fledged department handles all logistics issues to ensure that all organization resources and needs are met according. All these are set to acceptable standards.

Contract Type	Title	Area of Expertise	Duty Station
National	Project Managers/ Coordinators	Overall management of the project and Smooth running and coordination of day to day activities and reporting of the project	Nairobi/ Somaliland offices
Fixed-term	Admin/ Finance	All the administrative work and Financial activities and reporting	Nairobi/ Somaliland offices
Casuals	Field Supervisors	Responsible for checking and reporting on the progress of the project.	Nairobi/ Somaliland offices
Daily Laborers	Foremen	Listing the workers and workload measurement for each beneficiary.	Nairobi/ Somaliland
Volunteers	Interns project management	Project development, evaluation & monitoring	Nairobi office

ORGANOGRAM



Type of staff/ Names	Highest Qualifications	Key Responsibilities	Location	Years of Experience
Nimo Ali	Master of Arts in International and Community Development	Executive Director	Nairobi	20+ years
Jonathan Mwaniki	Post Graduate Dip. Project Management Bachelor of Education	Programs Director- Head of programs & Strategy, training and Research.	Nairobi with field travel	18 years
Ramogi Osewe	B.A Social Work & Social Development	M&E Manager, training and Research	Nairobi with field travel	16 years
Titus Barsitei	BSC in Financial Engineering	Finance and administrative Manager	Nairobi with field travel	9 years
Judy N. Ngusa	Master in Education	Manager- Education Programs, Training & Capacity Development	Makueni	13 years
Amina Shariff Abdinoor	Master of International Cooperation and Humanitarian Aid Studies	Manager- Youth/ Women Empowerment, Peace Building and Governance	Marsabit	12 years
Dominic Chelelgo Chemjor	BSC in Agricultural Economics	Manager- Resilience, Food Security, Climate Change, And Livelihood	Nairobi/Field	9 years
Dennis Nguma Muoki	Msc. Agricultural and Applied Economics- On Going	Project Manager	Makueni	11 Years
January Mutavi Mbuvi	BSc. Agribusiness Economics & Food Industry Management	Agri-business Specialist	Makueni	7 years
Dominic Kithome Kioko	Diploma in Animal Health and Production	Animal Health Field Officer	Makueni	5 years
Morris Mutua	Diploma in Community Development	Project Field Officer	Makueni	8 years.
Edward Munyoki Musya	MSc Animal Nutrition and Feed Sciences	Veterinary/Animal Nutrition Specialist	Kitui	3 years.
Shadrack Mwanza Ndungi	B.Sc. Animal Science and Management	Animal Health Specialist	Kitui	5 years
Elijah Mumo Patrick	BSc. Agriculture (Animal Science)	Animal Health Field Officer	Kitui	6 years
Grace Nyiva Mwendwa	BSc. Animal Production	Animal Health Specialist	Kitui	7 years
Franco Peter	BA. Community Development	Project Manager	Kitui	3 Years
Scholastica Musyoka	BSc. Animal Health and Production	Animal Health Specialist	Kitui	7 years
Lesinko Ranik	BSc. Agribusiness	Agribusiness Specialist	Kajiado	5 years
Joel Memusi Letia	Bachelor of Veterinary Medicine	Veterinary/Animal Nutrition Specialist	Kajiado	3 years
Nosim Kutata	BSc. Agronomist/Horticulture	Crop value chain specialist	Kajiado	3 Years
Lazarus Polokwa	BSc. Biotechnology	Project Manager	Kajiado	3 years
Shirlean Sintamei	BSc. Economics and Sociology	Agribusiness specialist	Kajiado	3 years



CONTACTS

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