

## Interview Transcript

Interview with Cawo, 23, Somaliland

Filmed: January 2023

Start Time	End Time	Text
00:00:00:07	00:00:06:11	My name is Cawo Sahal Yusuf. I'm 23 years old.
00:00:06:24	00:00:14:16	I'm married and I have one child.
00:00:16:15	00:00:25:04	I used to go to school, but I had to drop out in grade five.
00:00:25:04	00:00:33:03	I dropped out of school in grade five because my parents could not...
00:00:33:03	00:00:41:11	afford the school fees, that was the reason.
00:00:41:11	00:00:47:18	I have three sisters and one brother.
00:00:47:18	00:00:54:12	None of them go to school, we all dropped out in lower grades.
00:00:54:12	00:00:57:12	I was 19 years old when I got married.
00:00:57:12	00:01:04:05	FGM is very common in our community, especially in this area where I live.
00:01:04:05	00:01:13:12	It happens to girls my age or younger. It happened to me when I was 10 years old.
00:01:15:01	00:01:25:01	The harm done to me that day is still hunting me. I was very young, only 10 years old.
00:01:26:01	00:01:31:10	I was shocked when the woman who cuts brought her equipment.
00:01:31:10	00:01:36:01	They cut me and I never healed fully, it is still a wound to me.
00:01:37:01	00:01:49:01	Later on, when I reached the adolescent age, my period was very painful and I got infections.
00:01:50:01	00:01:54:18	When I got married, I had a lot of challenges in my marriage as well.
00:01:54:18	00:01:59:14	Because I was sealed I needed operation to open.

00:01:59:14	00:02:05:01	I was supposed to feel happy but I had sadness in my heart and the pain in my body.
00:02:06:01	00:02:14:17	Then I got pregnant and when I was giving birth to my child, the doctor cut my body severely.
00:02:14:17	00:02:21:01	I was paralysed for 40 days, I couldn't do anything.
00:02:33:15	00:02:40:15	So FGM has many consequences, personally, it harmed me badly.
00:02:41:19	00:02:48:19	I don't want my daughter to go through the problems I faced.
00:02:48:19	00:02:57:17	Because these things that happened to me, took my happiness away and left me with an injured body.
00:02:57:17	00:03:07:18	So, I don't want my baby to be harmed mentally and physically.
00:03:07:18	00:03:14:10	And I want to say: Stop doing FGM to all girls. Stop!
00:03:14:10	00:03:22:21	I feel so sad, I was a person who expected happiness...
00:03:23:14	00:03:33:20	but I ended up with sorrow and an injured body.
00:03:33:20	00:03:49:15	Giving birth is normally a painful thing, but it doubled with FGM...
00:03:49:15	00:03:58:08	which I never really recovered from, for so long.
00:03:58:08	00:04:03:02	I would like to say to Somali mothers, wherever they are: Stop hurting girls!
00:04:03:02	00:04:10:24	We can't fix us, who have already been cut, but stop doing it to the next generation.
00:04:10:24	00:04:16:08	Do not hurt their bodies and hearts, please stop it!
00:04:16:08	00:04:25:19	I also call upon the international community to support Somalia and everyone facing such violence.
00:04:25:19	00:04:31:10	Prevent all harm facing young girls.
00:04:31:10	00:04:40:12	I think more awareness raising in this community could stop such practices.
00:04:41:14	00:04:59:10	Because people follow traditions but awareness can help stop it.