



# ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT

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23

Empowering People & Enhancing  
Lives Through Community Driven  
Initiatives since 2001.



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## BACKGROUND

Youth Volunteers for Development and Environment Conservation (YOVENCO) was founded on 10th March 2001. It is a non-governmental, non-profit making, and non-political organization with headquarters in Berbera; and sub-offices in Hargeisa and Burao. Over the years, YOVENCO has been providing timely and relevant assistance to poor and vulnerable communities through the implementation of interventions in Social Livelihoods Development, Health Improvement, Child Protection, Youth Empowerment as well as the Conservation of the Environment. YOVENCO is duly licensed to operate as a Non-Governmental Organization in the Republic of Somaliland by the Ministry of National Planning and Development.

Since its inception, YOVENCO has collaborated with the local authorities, other aid agencies as well as beneficiary communities to successfully deliver dozens of humanitarian and development projects. Its sphere of operations includes; Promoting Resilient Livelihoods, Disaster Risk Reduction, Food Security & Climate Adaptation, Quality & Inclusive Education, Youth Empowerment & Skills Development, Child Protection & Child Rights Governance, Emergence Response, Peacebuilding & Good Governance, Gender Equality & Women Empowerment.

YOVENCO is renowned as a reputable organization with a proven track record of implementing timely and relevant projects throughout the country.

### OUR VISION

“A society where every citizen enjoys access to better livelihood with a dignified life, human rights and social justice promoted and climate change vulnerability reduced”

### OUR MISSION

“YOVENCO commits to work with people in poverty and exclusion to improve their socioeconomic status, protect their rights, promote gender equality and well-being, and reduce climate change vulnerability through service delivery, empowerment, and policy advocacy”.

### GEOGRAPHICAL COVERAGE

YOVENCO actively operates in Sahil, Marodijeh, Togdheer, Sanaag regions, and parts of Sool region. Our programmes and projects have a presence in the entirety of Somaliland.

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This annual report highlights the impactful initiatives and programs spearheaded by YOVENCO during the reporting period of 2024. Over the course of the year, YOVENCO implemented eight projects across various sectors, with a total budget expenditure of **\$862,830**. These projects aimed to address critical issues such as women and youth empowerment, good governance, child protection, education, and vocational training.

One notable project, the Letter One initiative, focused on safeguarding vulnerable girls and boys in the drought-stricken Togdheer region, ensuring protection from abuse and exploitation while improving household food security for 3,100 households. Additionally, the FFO project targeted displaced populations, particularly women and children, providing essential support for child protection and establishing Child-Friendly Spaces, benefitting 4,488 beneficiaries.

Recognizing education as a fundamental right, YOVENCO's JNO project provided quality education and integrated child protection services to drought-affected learners in the Togdheer region, resulting in improved enrollment, retention, and academic performance for 1,350 learners.

Furthermore, the organization's commitment to children's rights extended nationwide through the WADUS Project, which specifically targeted vulnerable children, including those with disabilities, in Sahil and Marodijeh regions. This initiative facilitated awareness, established support groups, and advocated for improved support systems, directly assisting 340 cases.

In the realm of good governance, YOVENCO led a consortium of local NGOs in implementing an EU-funded project, empowering civil society organizations (CSOs) and local authorities across Somaliland. This initiative laid the groundwork for transparent, accountable governance, fostering partnerships and advocacy mechanisms that empower CSOs to drive positive change within their communities.

Additionally, YOVENCO's TVET Center played a crucial role in enhancing employability and socio-economic development through various training programs. Collaborations with international organizations and self-funded initiatives provided essential life skills training and vocational programs in fields such as electricity installation, cooking, computer application, and event decoration, catering to diverse needs and promoting inclusivity.

In conclusion, YOVENCO's impactful programs have equipped participants with essential skills, protected vulnerable populations, enhanced governance structures, and improved livelihoods across Somaliland. Through its commitment to comprehensive vocational training and value-based interventions, YOVENCO continues to empower individuals and drive sustainable community development.

Abdulaziz Saed Salah

**Executive Director of YOVENCO**

## SCOPE OF WORK

YOVENCO exists with the aim of contributing towards the creation of better protective environment for the disadvantaged groups and sustainable socio-economic development for all. At the time of its founding, our work mainly focused on the conservation and preservation of the environment. Following consultations with the beneficiary community and extended stakeholders, YOVENCO revised its vision and mission leading to expansion of its scope of work and geographical coverage to step in to support efforts toward responding to the life-threatening challenges of our times. It has since grown to become one of the largest youth-led local NGOs in Somaliland. Over the past ten years, YOVENCO has successfully delivered services in areas of: Promoting Resilient Livelihoods, Disaster Risk Reduction, Food Security & Climate Adaptation, Quality & Inclusive Education, Youth Empowerment & Skills Development, Child Protection & Child Rights Governance, Emergence Response, Peacebuilding & Good Governance, Gender Equality & Women Empowerment.

The currently ongoing activities are multi-sectoral and integrate into both relief and development. From livelihood assistance to skill building, YOVENCO supports thousands of Somaliland's most vulnerable groups. Thanks to the generous support of its partners ranging from international organizations to the world's biggest donors such as the European Union.

Our programme interventions employ a Human Rights-Based Approach (HRBA), Gender Responsiveness, Social Inclusion & Meaningful Participation, Mainstreaming, Participatory Planning, Monitoring & Evaluation in designing, delivering, and evaluating its programs. With these approaches, our interventions promote human rights with a focus on children, women, youth, and disabled people through community-driven initiatives to make the socially excluded groups aware of their rights and hold duty-bearers responsive and accountable.

## SUMMARY OF THE REPORT

This report covers the initiatives and programmes spearheaded by YOVENCO during the reporting period of 2024 through its diverse multi-sectoral projects. The report details the projects handled by YOVENCO, its set of activities conducted during the reporting period, and the impact achieved faced by the organization in the realization of the progress.

During the reporting period, YOVENCO implemented eight projects ranging from women and youth empowerment to good governance, with its total budget spent amounting to **\$862,830**.

## PROJECT-BASED ACHIEVEMENTS

Key interventions also targeted the most vulnerable groups of the society including the girls, women, and the disabled groups. For instance, the Letter One project targeted the vulnerable girls and boys in the drought stricken Togdheer region where Girls and boys are protected from abuse, neglect, violence, and exploitation through appropriate prevention and response interventions in line with the Minimum Standards for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action. In addition to that, Households' food, nutrition, and economic security were improved. As a result, a total of **3,100 households** were reached directly, benefiting from the project's various interventions.

Moreover, the FFO project, another project implemented by YOVENCO, aimed to work toward the reduction of vulnerability among the displaced people including women and children, providing crucial support in enhancing the capacity of child protection structures through the establishment and training of community welfare committees. The establishment of the committees was coupled with the provision of **210** positive parenting without violence sessions (PwV) aiming to transform the harsh domestic



violence against children and foster healthier parent-child relationships. Additionally, the FFO project succeeded in establishing Child-Friendly Spaces to provide children with protected environments means, and ways in which they can participate in organized recreational activities to play, socialize, learn, and express themselves as they rebuild their lives and become at ease with the heightened exposure to the prolonged shocks, followed by community sensitization campaigns to increase awareness on Child Protection, SGBV and reporting and referral of CP and GBV cases. A total of 4,488 beneficiaries were directly reached.

As education remains a key pillar and unalienable right of children, YOVENCO implemented the JNO project 'Provision of Quality Education, Life-Saving and Integrated Child Protection Services for Children Affected by Drought in Togdheer Region'. This project responded to and met the most pressing education needs of the girls and boys affected by drought in Togdheer region including teaching, learning, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), protection, and safeguarding; and influenced the negative social norms that propagated education and protection inequalities. The integrated project design contributed to improved enrollment, retention, attendance, and performance of the drought-affected learners in the five project schools by enabling the project to meet multiple education and protection needs of the affected learners. As a result, a total of **1,350 learners** enrolled in formal education, while **1,250** of them received school materials necessary for learning.

Our work with children, including the disabled, extends almost nationwide, with the WADUS Project specifically targeting vulnerable children in Sahil and Marodijeh regions of Somaliland. This initiative aimed to uphold the basic rights of vulnerable children, particularly those with disabilities, mitigating various child protection risks. It facilitated awareness on disability issues, advocating for improved support systems for families with disabled children. Additionally, the project established peers' support groups and child rights groups focusing on disability, empowering children to voice their concerns and rights across all platforms. Gender equality was actively promoted, ensuring equal opportunities for both girls and boys in project interventions. Across both project locations, a total of 340 cases were supported, with 196 cases in Hargeisa and 144 cases in Berbera, encompassing children aged 0 to 17 years old. These children, facing diverse protection concerns such as child labor, emotional abuse, and early marriage, received direct assistance, including legal support, psychosocial support (PSS), and medical aid for survivors of rape and neglect cases.

In the sphere of good governance, YOVENCO leads a consortium of local NGOs that implement an EU-funded project dubbed "Empowering CSOs and communities as leading actors and participants in social change and building capacities of local authorities to deliver transparent, accountable, people-centered social services" covering all six regions of Somaliland. During the reporting period, the project empowered Somaliland's CSOs and local authorities, laying the groundwork for a more transparent, accountable, and inclusive local governance landscape. Key capacity-building initiatives and robust advocacy mechanisms were established, enabling CSOs to flourish as effective actors. This foundation paves the way for future interventions where empowered CSOs can drive positive change within their communities, contributing to national reform efforts.

The progress towards impact indicators is strong. The project gathered baseline data, raised awareness among stakeholders, strengthened capacities, fostered partnerships, and built collaboration platforms like the Somaliland CSOs Accountability Network and a digital performance-tracking platform. Public campaigns and cultural events furthered gender-transformative action and equality promotion.

## YOVENCO'S TVET CENTER

YOVENCO TVET Center has successfully implemented a range of training programs aimed at empowering individuals, enhancing employability, and fostering socio-economic development. Through

collaborations with international organizations, such as CONCERN WORLDWIDE, GIZ, SOS, and through self-funded initiatives, the center has made a significant impact on the lives of participants and communities.

The Family Strengthening Program (FSP), implemented in partnership with SOS Children's Villages Somaliland, has provided essential life skills training in entrepreneurship and employability to young people in the Sahil Region. This program, along with the Next Economy Program, has equipped participants with the knowledge and skills to improve their income and livelihoods.

Additionally, YOVENCO TVET Center has offered vocational training programs in various fields, including Electricity Installation, Cooking and Bakery, Henna and Beautification, Computer Application, and Event Decoration. These programs have catered to the diverse needs and interests of individuals, enabling them to acquire practical skills and competencies that are in high demand in the job market.

The center's self-funded programs have also played a vital role in empowering individuals who have chosen to invest in their own education and career development. Courses such as Computer Application, Electricity Installation, Event Decoration, and Henna have provided participants with specialized skills and expanded their employment prospects.

Throughout these training programs, YOVENCO TVET Center has remained committed to inclusivity and equal opportunities. The center has ensured that both male and female participants have access to vocational training, promoting gender equality and empowering individuals from all backgrounds.

## CONCLUSION

In conclusion, YOVENCO programs have successfully equipped participants with essential skills, improved employability, protected the most vulnerable among the community, contributed to enhanced good governance in local governments and enhanced livelihoods. YOVENCO, through its center's commitment to providing comprehensive vocational training opportunities and diverse value for money-based interventions, continues to empower individuals and drive sustainable community development in Somaliland.

## TARGET GROUPS

- Children (including the disabled)
- Youth & Women
- Internally Displaced People (IDPs)
- Fishing, pastoral and agro-pastoral communities
- People with Disabilities
- Victims of Domestic Violence & Abuse
- Underprivileged Communities

## PROJECTS

- ❖ *“Provision of Quality Education, Life-Saving and Integrated Child Protection Services for Children Affected by Drought in Togdheer Region”.*
- ❖ *“Wadajirka Daryeelka Ubadka Somaliland (WADUS) – Working together for better protection of children in Somaliland project”.*
- ❖ *“Empowering CSOs and communities as leading actors and participants in social change and building capacities of local authorities to deliver transparent, accountable, people-centered social services”.*
- ❖ *Famine Prevention response in host and IDP communities affected by drought in Somalia/Somaliland*
- ❖ *FFO Nexus*
- ❖ *Vocational Skills Programs;*
  - *The next economy training program in the Sahil Region*
  - *The Social Transfer Model 2 program*
  - *Improvement of disaster risk management and food security to strengthen the resilience in “Somaliland” (RDRM)*
  - *Self-funded program*

## RESULTS & ACTIVITIES

- ❖ *“PROVISION OF QUALITY EDUCATION, LIFE-SAVING AND INTEGRATED CHILD PROTECTION SERVICES FOR CHILDREN AFFECTED BY DROUGHT IN TOGDHERE REGION”.*



## KEY INTERVENTIONS

- Overall, 1, 350 learners (636girls, 714boys) enrolled in five project schools in 12 months project period, meeting above the target of 1,233 learners.
- 1,274 (94.4%) of the learners enrolled were retained until the end of the project.
- 1,250 learners (636 girls and 714 boys) against 1, 233 received scholastic materials.
- Three of the project schools had registered 78 candidates (55boys, 23girls) to sit for national examination in 2022/2023 academic year. Harashiik, Haragwaafi and Unuunley recorded positive improvement in the number of learners that registered to participate in the national examinations in 2023 compared to the previous years.



- 5 water supply systems (tanks) – one per project school were constructed/rehabilitated and improved menstrual hygiene management among adolescent girls and overall schools' sanitation.
- 20 teachers (3 females) were trained in teaching methodology (teaching large, multi-grade, and multi-age classes, catch-up classes), to address the needs of catch-up learners. Out of the trained teachers, 18(90%) measured above average in post-test and the remaining 2(10%) were supported on peer-to-peer basis.
- 150 caregivers benefited from mobile cash transfers of USD 50 for 6 months which enabled the most vulnerable families to afford the most pressing family basic needs, supplemented the purchase of learning materials for their children, contributed to improved food security and livelihoods at the family level.
- Five school based DRR preparedness plans were developed – one in each project school. They helped to guide DRR activities at the school's level including hazards mapping and mitigation to avert negative effects on the education program; and provided a structured framework upon which to plan and execute disaster risk reduction and mitigation interventions.
- 130(90%) caregivers and 123(92%) children benefitted from the integrated child protection services. Services contributed to the improvement of child protection outcomes as cited by all (100%) HTs, 79% caregivers, and 69% children surveyed.
- Pieces of trainings were provided in child protection, basic mental health and psychosocial support, case management, and referral pathways. As a result,
  - 80% of the attendees showed an above-average knowledge increase.
  - 111(77%) caregivers and 82(62%) children can **identify** cases of protection violations in their school and community.
  - CEC FGD participants highly understand basic child protection concepts and **how** to identify CP violations at school and in the community.
  - 134(93%) caregivers and 115(86%) children and CECs knew **where** to report cases of protection violations in their schools or at the community level.
  - Most caregivers (96%) and children (80%) know **how** to report protection violations in their school or at the community.
- 400 girls received menstrual hygiene kits that consisted of menstrual pads, bath soap, multiple pairs of underwear, detergent powder, sanitary napkins, a flashlight, toothpaste, a toothbrush, and a comb. Hygiene kits reduced absenteeism among girls as reported by 57% child survey respondents; restored girl's dignity (44%), enabled girls to participate in physical exercises (23%), contributed to improved hygiene management and to comfort and concentration in class (12%).
- 130(90%) caregivers and 123(92%) children benefitted from the integrated child protection services. Services contributed to improvement of child protection outcomes as cited by all (100%) HTs, 79% caregivers and 69% children surveyed.

## RESULTS

- The project impacted the education sector through support for review of 4 guidelines and policies including the Education Sector Strategic Plan, Education Policy, Non-Formal Education Policy and the Education Management Information System (EMIS) Guidelines.
- It contributed to improved enrolment, learner performance, teacher engagement, community involvement, and overall school infrastructure improvement.
- According to the surveyed caregivers, access to education was the most significant change caused by the project (89% children & 79% caregivers), inclusivity of the education (50% learners & 42% caregivers), learning in a protective environment (44% caregivers & 25% learners).
- It contributed to enhanced resilience of the learners, teachers and the CECs who are now more knowledgeable and aware about droughts, climate change, global warming, floods, and the mitigation measures that can reduce their impacts on their lives and on the education sector.

- Catch-up classes made a significant impact in-terms of the number of learners that re-entered school. They offered a second chance to the out of school and overage children to access education.
- Cash transfers (\$50) provided to 150 households for 6 months, increased the capacity of the households to cover their most pressing needs including payment of water bills, medical bills and to purchase uniforms for their children; Improved coping mechanism and cushioned the beneficiary families from using negative coping strategies like disposal of family assets, keeping girls at home than in school, or initiating child early and forced marriages to cope with the severe effects of drought.
- There was improved quality of teaching and learning as a result of teacher training and distribution of scholastic materials.
- By implementing effective teaching strategies, providing quality resources, and offering supportive learning environment, learners demonstrated improved academic achievement, increased knowledge retention, higher levels of critical thinking and problem-solving skills, and a greater ability to apply learned concepts in real-life situations (Deputy Regional Education Officer).
- There was general improvement among the education stakeholders in the levels of knowledge and understanding of child protection and safeguarding, safety, and wellbeing of the learners.
- The project contributed to the sustainable development goal 4 and 5 through access to quality education and education system strengthening.

❖ *“WADAJIRKA DARYEELKA UBADKA SOMALILAND (WADUS) – WORKING TOGETHER FOR BETTER PROTECTION OF CHILDREN IN SOMALILAND PROJECT”.*



## KEY INTERVENTIONS

- **A total of 340** (176 girls and 164 boys) cases were supported in both project locations. 196 cases (95 boys and 101 girls) were supported in Hargeisa and 144 cases (75 girls and 69 boys) in Berbera. These children with different protection concerns received direct support through case management.
- 8 intern social workers (5 female and 3 male) from the University of Hargeisa and Berbera were recruited as interns and deployed to the community.
- Community desks were established in the project target locations (Eight locations in Hargeisa and three locations in Berbera), among these project locations were Ayah 3, Ayah 4, Mohamed Mooge, Malawle, Daami B, Cakaara, Gebiley, Wadajir, Burco sheikh and Laso dawaco. These

vocal persons will operate SGBV desks in their designated locations to respond to child protection concerns.

- One awareness raising meeting and one day of football competition were conducted in Berbera based on the findings of the assessment of the study on children living and working on the streets (children on the move) to strengthen the coordination among the child protection stakeholders, and develop appropriate mechanism to prevent and response on street children challenges.
- 130 parenting without violence (PwV) sessions and fourteen interaction sessions were conducted in the project target locations in both Berbera and Hargeisa to build strong relationships between children and their parents/caregivers to enable them resolve problems together and prevent children from experiencing physical and humiliating punishment in the home.
- 63 children's group sessions were conducted in the project target locations including Hargeisa and Berbera, 175 children (94 girls and 81 boys) participated in these child sessions. Children's Group Sessions are aimed and designed to increase girls and boy's knowledge, confidence, and skills to express their views, to encourage children to respect and understand different family and support structures; to communicate and solve problems together with their parents and caregivers, and to protect themselves from abuse and/or gender discrimination.
- Four celebrations were conducted for the beneficiaries that completed safe family sessions in both Berbera and Hargeisa to award good parenting practices. three celebrations were conducted in Hargeisa and one in Berbera. A total of 535 participants (220 Female, 140 Male, 94 Girls and 81 Boys) participated in these celebrations at both Target locations.
- A five day workshop was given to two peer support groups existing in Hargeisa to raise awareness on children with disability and advocate for providing better support to families with children with disabilities.
- In support to children's own initiatives to support other children, the Child rights groups conducted awareness sessions about the issues of child right advocacy, Child labour, child participation, protecting children from harm, and protecting vulnerable children. The target participants were 74 (25 girls and 35 boys, 12 female and 2 male) in both Hargeisa and Berbera.

## RESULTS

- As a result of the direct support provided to **340 children**, including tailored case management, there was a noticeable decrease in the prevalence of protection concerns among beneficiaries. Moreover, this intervention facilitated the empowerment and resilience-building of children facing various challenges.
- The deployment of eight intern social workers significantly enhanced the local capacity for addressing social issues. This led to improved access to support services for vulnerable children and families, resulting in a more efficient and responsive community support system.
- The establishment of community desks across project locations facilitated prompt responses to child protection concerns. This initiative increased community engagement in safeguarding children, leading to a safer environment, reduced instances of child rights violations, and strengthened mechanisms of SGBV prevention and response.
- The awareness-raising meeting and football competition in Berbera fostered greater coordination among child protection stakeholders. Consequently, there was increased community awareness and mobilization toward preventing and addressing issues faced by children living in the streets.

- Conducting **130 PwV sessions** and fourteen interaction sessions strengthened parent-child relationships and reduced instances of physical and humiliating punishment. This led to improved communication and conflict resolution skills within families, contributing to a more nurturing and supportive home environment.
- Through **63 children's group sessions**, 175 children gained increased knowledge, confidence, and skills to express themselves and protect against abuse and discrimination. This resulted in improved self-esteem, better communication with parents/caregivers, and enhanced resilience among participating children.
- Celebrating beneficiaries completing safe family sessions reinforced positive parenting practices and community recognition of child protection efforts. This led to increased motivation among families to adopt and maintain safe and supportive parenting practices.
- The five-day workshop on disability awareness raised awareness and advocated for better support for families with disabled children. This led to increased inclusivity and support for children with disabilities, reducing their vulnerability and promoting their rights within the community.
- Conducting advocacy sessions empowered children to advocate for their rights and the rights of others. This led to increased community awareness and action towards protecting vulnerable children and promoting child rights, fostering a more supportive and rights-based environment for children through their own initiatives.

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❖ FFO NEXUS



### KEY INTERVENTIONS

- Established and engaged 7 Community-based child protection structures/mechanisms (CBCPMs) through the provision of training on child protection, case management, and referral pathways.
- Rolled out of PwV package (incl. training of community mentors and facilitators; structured positive parenting group sessions with female and male caregivers; structured children's groups' sessions with girls and boys aged 6-17 years).
- Space (CFS) Somaliland (3) to accommodate and provide structured recreational activities (Football, Outdoor activities, Competition, Drama, Traditional Dancing, and entertainment) with children.

- Provided direct support (psychosocial support, psychological first aid, and case management services) and referral for children with (at risk of) protection violations e.g., abuse, neglect, exploitation, and violence.
- Conducted Cycles of Youth resilience workshops weekly to improve youth resilience to adversities.
- Conducted community sensitization campaigns to increase awareness on Child Protection, SGBV, and reporting and referral of CP and GBV cases, with emphasis on reducing the vulnerability of girls, boys, and women in the CFS and community places with children and caregivers.

## RESULTS

- The training improved the knowledge of the CWC members in child protection and case management and referral pathway mechanisms. The total participants were **142** people (**67** female and **75** male) from all project locations.
- **210** parenting sessions/workshops were conducted in the project target locations including Ali Hussein, Kosar, Aqilyare, Kaam-Barwaqo, 27-MAY, wadamagoo and Ainabo IDPs. 250 parents (210 Female and 40 Male) participated in the parenting sessions and 250 children in the child sessions (120 girls, 130 boys).
- Through engaging in diverse activities within the CFS, children experienced improved emotional and psychological well-being, providing them with a sense of normalcy and security amidst challenging circumstances. **A total of 854 children** actively engaged in the Child-Friendly Spaces.
- Through direct support and referrals, vulnerable children received essential assistance tailored to their needs, promoting their safety, well-being, and access to specialized services. YOVENCO supported **219 (122 girls, 97 boys)** cases through direct case management and another 90 (50 girls and 40 boys) cases regarded as referral in the project target locations.
- Youth Resilience Workshops enhanced the resilience of young people affected by crises by providing them with the necessary skills and support to resume normal activities, cope with adversities, make positive life choices, and act as role models within their communities. A total of **125 children (65 girls and 60 boys)** actively participated in the workshops.
- Raised awareness about child protection and SGBV issues, as well as educated community members on the importance of reporting and referring cases for appropriate action. By providing information on reporting and referral mechanisms, community members were empowered to act in cases of child protection and SGBV, contributing to the safety and well-being of vulnerable individuals. **A total of 2700 individuals** were reached through the sensitization campaigns.

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- ❖ “EMPOWERING CSOS AND COMMUNITIES AS LEADING ACTORS AND PARTICIPANTS IN SOCIAL CHANGE AND BUILDING CAPACITIES OF LOCAL AUTHORITIES TO DELIVER TRANSPARENT, ACCOUNTABLE, PEOPLE-CENTERED SOCIAL SERVICES”.





## KEY INTERVENTIONS

- 3 CSOs Capacity-Building Training Sessions on Accountability & Transparency in The Local Government
- 2 Community consultations on the importance of accountability in local government in Hargeisa and Berbera
- Strengthening Local Governance through Accountability: An Interactive Meeting on the Role of CSOs and CBOs held in Berbera.
- An Interactive Meeting on Strengthening Local Governance through CSOs-Local Government Cooperation held in Hargeisa.
- Founding Meeting of Somaliland CSOs Accountability Network (SCAN)
- Development of Digital Accountability Platform
- 4 Workshops on Local Development Plans & Budgets
- Support to independent research, evidence-based advocacy, and/or participatory community monitoring of public services at the local level.
- Tailored Capacity Building Trainings for Somaliland Blind Organization (SOBO) and Xaq-U-Dood Organization
- Two Public Campaigns on Gender Transformative Action in Local Governance (Hargeisa & Borama)

## RESULTS

- Equipping CSOs with the necessary knowledge, skills, and resources, these capacity-building initiatives served as stepping stones to a more robust and inclusive local governance system in Somaliland. Empowered CSOs can effectively advocate for the needs of their communities, hold local authorities accountable, and contribute to the development and implementation of policies that reflect the aspirations of the people.
- Community consultation identified key obstacles before enforcing community-led accountability toward local government, sparked discussion on means and ways to go about them and provided recommendations for increased community engagement in accountability-driving efforts.
- Amplified the role of CSOs in promoting and facilitating accountability mechanisms in the work of local governments; explored the challenges and opportunities for CSOs in this area of local governance, and identified areas of potential engagement for CSOs to play a more effective role in promoting and facilitating accountability mechanisms in the work of local governments.
- Facilitated discussion on the significance of local community partnerships with the work of local government; explored the challenges before community-based partnerships with the local



government and highlighted opportunities for strengthening the CSOs' involvement in local governance.

- Inaugurated a functional CSOs Accountability Taskforce with non-implementing nature and fostered deliberation and consensus-building on the Taskforce's mandate, structure, and operational procedures.
- Comprehensive digital platform was designed to serve as a central hub for information exchange, collaboration, and feedback between diverse stakeholders: Local Authorities, District Development Forums (DDFs), Civil Society Accountability Network (SCAN)- also established by this project- CSOs, media, and citizens.
- Participants of the workshops deepened their understanding of the Public Expenditure Management cycle, heightened their skills in District Development Forums preparation, and cultivated a sense of collaborative governance at local and district levels.
- The participatory community monitoring (PCM) research study served as a benchmark study to largely influence and inform workshops and capacity building trainings aimed at improving Somaliland's local governance and equip the civil society as actors and drivers of good governance and development in Somaliland.
- The tailored capacity-building trainings equipped the SOBO and Xaqdoon organizations with the skills and knowledge needed to effectively engage in governance processes and improve their leadership capacities.
- Increased awareness of gender inequality and gender stereotypes through roll out, spread of campaign messages and founding of dedicated social media influencers to push on gender-transformative action in local governance.

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❖ *FAMINE PREVENTION RESPONSE IN HOST AND IDP COMMUNITIES AFFECTED BY DROUGHT IN SOMALIA/SOMALILAND*



### KEY INTERVENTIONS

- Girls and boys received gender and age-appropriate case management services.
- NFI supplies to establish a safe and secure environment for children affected by droughts.
- Placement of trained social workers at the community to support FTR, identification of vulnerable children and referrals.

- Provision of PSS-MHPSS services and recreational activities to vulnerable children, adolescents and caregivers in the CFSs to promote positive coping, resilience and wellbeing.
- Provision of dignity packs to affected women and girls.
- *Establishment and strengthening of community-based child protection mechanisms, particularly targeting community-based child protection committees.*
- Conduct of structured awareness raising events with community members through drama, and community meetings on gender equality and GBV prevention.
- Verification, registration and provision of multi-purpose cash assistance target households.
- Established community feedback mechanism through deployment of IEC materials and toll-free hotlines.

## RESULTS

- Multi-purpose cash vouchers assistance were provided to 200 HH in Burco (Camp Barwaaqo, Aqil Yare, 27th May A & B) and Buuhoodle sub-district of Qorilugud (Horyaal and Sahan).
- Six Community-based child protection structures were established and strengthened to enable them to identify and report child protection cases at the community level.
- 261 (220 girls and 41 boys age group 6-18) children with different protection concerns received support through case management process.
- The Project recruited and trained eight (5 Female, 3 Male) social workers and placed them in the project target IDP communities.
- 300 HH in the project target locations received non-food items to create a safe and protective environment for children affected by droughts
- Three child-friendly spaces (CFS) were established in Camp Barwaaqo, Aqil Yare and Qorilugud.
- Community awareness of gender-based violence (GBV) and harmful practices was conducted in the target areas in coordination with social workers. As result, 1000 (Male 150, female 500, boys 150, girls 200) individuals reached through awareness meetings/gatherings.
- 500 (350 adolescent girls and 150 women) from the most vulnerable and low-income communities received dignity kits.
- YOVENCO MEAL team conducted consultation meetings on AAP (Accountability to Affected people) with the target communities
- YOVENCO MEAL team implemented/fixed community based feedback mechanisms in the project target locations based on the findings of the community consultations conducted. These included IEC materials and free TOLL numbers (Hotlines).

### ❖ VOCATIONAL SKILLS PROGRAMS

#### - **THE NEXT ECONOMY PROGRAM:**



Collaborating with SOS Children's Villages Somaliland, the center implemented the Next Economy Program, emphasizing essential life skills training in entrepreneurship and employability. This

initiative specifically targeted young individuals in the Sahil Region, with a focus on Berbera city and Sheikh town. The FSP Project yielded a total of 157 graduates in the Sahil region in 2023, comprising 97 females and 60 males. These graduates received training in electricity (male intake) and Henna and Beautification (female intake), aligning with the diverse skill needs of the community.

- **THE SOCIAL TRANSFER MODEL 2 PROGRAM:**

The Social Transfer Model 2 program, spearheaded by YOVENCO TVET Center and backed by CONCERNWORLD WIDE, effectively reached out to unemployed youth in the Berbera district. Through the provision of vocational skills training in Cooling Systems and Hospitality Management at Level One, the program sought to uplift the income and livelihoods of its participants. In 2023, a total of 50 graduates emerged from this program in the Sahil region, comprising 25 females and 25 males. The training focused on equipping male participants with skills in cooling systems and female participants in hospitality management, fostering gender-inclusive skill development.

- **IMPROVEMENT OF DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT AND FOOD SECURITY TO STRENGTHEN THE RESILIENCE IN "SOMALILAND" (RDRM):**



The Transition aid project, "Improvement of disaster risk management and food security to strengthen resilience in Somaliland (RDRM)," spanning three years, aims to enhance the conditions for bolstering the resilience of pastoral and agro-pastoral populations and communities. The project has targeted villages across the Marodi Jeex, Saaxil, and Togdher regions of Somaliland. Nineteen trainees were carefully selected from various villages within these regions: Cadaadley and Laasgeel in Maroodijeex, Buroa district, Qoyta, and Qoryaale in Togdheer, and one

trainee from Mandheera district in Sahil region. The training program is designed to be inclusive, offering boarding facilities and catering exclusively to girls. Trainees underwent rigorous training in tailoring and were equipped with sewing machines to enhance their skills and empower them economically.

- **SELF-FUNDED PROGRAM:**

YOVENCO TVET Center also offers self-funded training programs to individuals seeking to enhance their skills and knowledge. These self-funded programs provide an opportunity for participants to invest in their own education and career development, catering to a wide range of interests and vocational aspirations. These self-funded programs require participants to pay a tuition fee, allowing them to invest in their own education and career development.

**YOVENCO TVET GRADUATES OF 2023**

No	Course Name	Duration	No student	level	Total
1	Computer Application	6 Months	91	Level one	91- 40 females and

					51 male trainees
2	Electricity installation	6 months	37	Level one and level two	36 – male trainees and 1 female trainees
3	Event Decoration	2 Months	19	Level one	19 – female trainees
4	Cooling system	6 months	25	Level one	24- male trainees and 1 female trainee
5	Hospitality Management		25	Level one	25 - female
6	Henna & Beautification	6 Months	19	Level one	19 female trainees
7	Cooking and Bakery	6 months	12	Level one	12 female trainees
8	Tailoring	6 Months	19	Level one	19 Female trainees
9	SOFT SKILLS( Core Life skills, entrepreneurship and employability training )	3 Months	125		78 females and 47 males
	<b>Total Graduates</b>		<b>372</b>		

## PROJECTS' BURN-RATES

#	Partner	Project	Budget
1	SAVE THE CHILDREN	WADUS	\$ 132,320.00
2	Plan International	JNO/EIE	\$ 149,646.12
3	SAVE THE CHILDREN	FFO	\$136,200.00
4	GIZ	RDRM	\$ 67,385.42
5	Plan International	Letter One	\$ 236,880.00
6	EU	<i>Empowering CSOs and communities as leading actors and participants in social change and building capacities of local authorities to deliver transparent, accountable, people-centered social services</i>	\$108,181.08
7	SOS	FSP	\$15,800.00

8	Concern Worldwide	Social Transfer Model 2	\$16,418.00
Grand Total			\$862,830

## STRATEGIC PARTNERS

