

»» NEWSLETTER ««

# IMPACT NEWS



Empowering people and enhancing lives through community-driven initiatives.



## TOP NEWS OF THE SEMI ANNUAL (JAN-JULY)

**HEADLINE: UGBAAD AHMED OMER: A YOUNG WOMAN BREAKING BARRIERS IN THE TECHNICAL FIELD**

*By Communications team*

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**HEADLINE: 427 CHILDREN IN TOGDHEER REGION RECEIVED CATCH-UP CLASSES AFTER DROUGHT DISRUPTED THEIR EDUCATION (EIE PROJECT)**

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YOVENCO Organization, in close partnership with Plan International under the Education in Emergency Project, has organized catch-up classes for 427 children in target locations whose education was disrupted their education due to drought. The classes are being held in six schools in the Ununlay, Karasharka, Harag-Waafi, Gatitaley, Harasheekh, and Dhoqoshay districts.

The catch-up classes were taught by 10 teachers who were hired specifically for this purpose. The classes were held in the afternoons so that the children can attend their regular classes in the mornings. The classes are designed to help the children catch up on the material they missed while they were out of school.

## IMPACT ACHIEVED

- Increased School Enrolments
- Reduced School drop out rates
- Improved Gender Parity
- Enhanced students' academic performance
- Raised community awareness on children's education

In addition to the catch-up classes, YOVENCO and Plan International have also been working to increase school enrollment in the target areas. They have held social mobilization sessions in each of the six schools to alarm parents and community members about the importance of education. They have also provided conditional cash transfers to the most vulnerable families in the area. These cash transfers are designed to help families cover the costs of sending their children to school.

The catch-up classes and the increase in school enrollment have had a positive impact on the education of children in Somaliland. These initiatives have helped to improve academic performance, reduce dropout rates, improve gender parity, and increase community awareness about the importance of education.

For example, the catch-up classes have helped the children to catch up on the material they missed while they were out of school. This has resulted in improved academic performance, as evidenced by the increased test scores of the children in the catch-up classes.

The increase in school enrollment has also helped to reduce dropout rates in the target areas. This is because more children are now able to attend school, even if they come from poor families. The provision of conditional cash transfers has also helped to improve gender parity in school enrollment. This is because cash transfers have made it easier for families to send their daughters to school. The social mobilization sessions have also helped to increase community awareness about the importance of education. This has led to more parents and community members supporting their children's education.

Overall, the catch-up classes and the increase in school enrollment are a valuable investment in the future of Somaliland. These initiatives are helping to ensure that all children, regardless of their circumstances, have the opportunity to get an education and are not left behind.



# HEADLINE: UGBAAD AHMED OMER: A YOUNG WOMAN BREAKING BARRIERS IN THE TECHNICAL FIELD

By Communications team

Ugbaad Ahmed Omer is a young woman from Berbera, Somaliland, who has broken barriers by becoming the only female graduate in the cooling systems course at YOVENCO Technical and Vocational Training Institute.

Ugbaad's achievement is a testament to her determination and hard work in a field that is traditionally male-dominated. She overcame many challenges to complete the course, including cultural expectations that women should not work in technical fields.

However, Ugbaad was determined to pursue her dream of becoming a cooling systems engineer. She worked hard in her studies and participated in all of the training activities. She also interned at a local cooling systems company, where she gained valuable experience.

Ugbaad was part of 42 youths who have completed vocational training courses in Cooking and Cooling systems at YOVENCO Technical and Vocational Training Institute (TVET).

Among the graduates, 22 female trainees completed the cooking course, while 19 male trainees and one female trainee completed the cooling systems course. The training was made possible through the social protection program funded by Concern Worldwide, which aims to empower vulnerable youths with vocational skills to enhance their livelihoods.

The training lasted for a total of seven months, which included six months of technical skills and entrepreneurship and business development training, followed by a one-month internship to put their skills into practice. The graduates are now equipped with the necessary skills to succeed in their respective fields and contribute to the development of their communities.

At the graduation ceremony, Ugbaad was recognized for her outstanding accomplishment by the Vice Mayor of Berbera local government. The Vice Mayor promised to support Ugbaad by offering her a permanent job opportunity. This promise is a major victory for Ugbaad and for all women who are working to break barriers in the technical field. It is also a sign that the local government is committed to gender diversity and inclusion in the workforce.

Ugbaad's story is an inspiration to young women everywhere. It shows that anything is possible if you set your mind to it and work hard.





# HEADLINE: SOCIAL ACCOUNTABILITY CONSULTATIONS FOR INCREASED PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT IN LOCAL GOVERNANCE HELD IN HARGEISA AND BERBERA (EU PROJECT)

By Communications team

YOVENCO, in partnership with the European Union, organized two community consultations on the importance of accountability in local government in Hargeisa and Berbera on March 16 and 18, respectively. The consultations aimed to foster community-based accountability in the services of local governments, raise awareness among community members about the importance of accountability in local government, gather community feedback and insights on their expectations of accountability in local government, identify challenges that hinder accountability in local government, and explore potential solutions to improve accountability in local government.

The consultations were instrumental in identifying areas where community-based accountability is lagging behind in the work of local governments in Hargeisa and Berbera. They were also crucial in sparking the thinking of the community into the state of accountability in local governments and how it could be facilitated to bring about local government services which are accountable to the community.

During the sessions, a presentation on social accountability and its significance was presented in both consultations. The presentation provided insights about the importance of social accountability, its benefits and impacts, key examples of social accountability mechanisms employed by different countries in the world, the role of civil society groups in drawing support for community-based accountability, and more.

Finally, the participants of the consultation engaged in discussion on the current state of accountability systems in local governments, and whether their local governments have the needed mechanisms of social accountability in place so that the communities are involved in the process of service delivery. The discussions explored challenges, shortcomings, and recommendations going forward to bring about accountability mechanisms built-in for the community.

The consultations were a success in raising awareness about the importance of social accountability and in gathering feedback from community members on their expectations of accountability in local government. The next steps will be to develop a plan to implement the recommendations that were made during the consultations.

## IMPACT ACHIEVED

- Increased School Enrolments
- Reduced School drop out rates
- Improved Gender Parity
- Enhanced students' academic performance
- Raised community awareness on children's education



# HEADLINE: POSITIVE PARENTING SESSIONS IN HARGEISA AND BERBERA HELP PARENTS BUILD STRONG RELATIONSHIPS WITH CHILDREN (WADUS PROJECT)

By Communications team

YOVENCO Organization, in close partnership with Save the Children under the WADUS Project, has conducted 56 parenting sessions and four interaction sessions in Hargeisa and Berbera, Somaliland. The sessions were attended by 140 mothers of children aged 0-5 years, expectant mothers, and mothers of children aged 10-13 years.

The purpose of the parenting sessions was to help parents build strong relationships with their children. The sessions covered a variety of topics, including positive parenting techniques, communication skills, and conflict resolution. The sessions also emphasized the importance of avoiding physical and humiliating punishment at home.

One of the mothers who participated in the program, Halima, said that the sessions had been very helpful. "I have learned a lot about how to be a better parent," she said. "I am now more patient and understanding with my children, and I am better able to set limits and discipline them without resorting to physical punishment."

Another mother, Fatima, said that the sessions had helped her to improve her communication skills with her children. "I used to have a hard time talking to my children," she said. "But now I am better able to listen to them and understand their needs. This has helped to improve our relationship a lot."

The parenting sessions have also helped to solve a number of problems that used to worsen parent-child relationships within Somalis. For example, in the past, many parents used physical punishment to discipline their children. This often led to fear, resentment, and a lack of trust between parents and children. The parenting sessions have taught parents about the negative effects of physical punishment and how to discipline their children without resorting to violence.

The parenting sessions have also helped to reduce the use of humiliating punishment, such as name-calling or public shaming. This type of punishment can also damage the parent-child relationship and lead to long-term emotional problems for the child. The parenting sessions have taught parents about the negative effects of humiliating punishment and how to discipline their children without causing them shame or embarrassment.

Overall, the parenting sessions have had a positive impact on parent-child relationships in the target locations. Mothers who have participated in the sessions report feeling more confident in their parenting skills and better able to communicate with their children. They also report that their relationships with their children have improved. The parenting sessions are cornerstone activities that help with the reduce of domestic violence against children at home and beyond, as they are helping to create a more stable and prosperous society.

## IMPACT ACHIEVED

- Improved child-parent relationships
- Reduced domestic violence against children
- Boosted child confidence in self-expression
- Facilitated positive parent-child communication
- Raised community awareness on negative effects of humiliating punishment



# HEADLINE: CHILD-FRIENDLY SPACES IN BURO'A PROMOTE WELLBEING OF CHILDREN (FFO PROJECT)

By Communications team

A two-day refresher of recreational activities was successfully conducted at Ali Hussein and Kosar IDP camps in Buro'a, Somaliland from June 22 to 24, 2023. The activities included an inter-competition of Somali traditional literature between drama groups in the two camps, as well as football and other outdoor competitions.

A total of 214 children participated in the activities, which were organized by YOVENCO with the support of Save the Children. The aim of the activities was to promote the well-being of children and to help them socialize with each other.

The traditional literature competition was won by the Kosar drama team, while the football tournament was won by the CRG team from Kosar. Prizes were given to the winners of both competitions.

YOVENCO organization is committed to providing support to children in Somaliland who have been affected by natural disasters such as drought and their compounding effects. The organization organized a two-day refresher of recreational activities at Ali Hussein and Kosar IDP camps in Buro'a from June 22 to 24, 2023. The activities included an inter-competition of Somali traditional literature between drama groups in the two camps, as well as football and other outdoor competitions.

The traditional literature competition involved two drama groups from each camp. The groups performed traditional Somali songs and dances. The judges were a group of local elders who were familiar with Somali traditional culture. Additionally, the football tournament was played between two teams from each camp. The teams played in a round-robin format, with the top two teams playing in the final. The final was won by the CRG team from Kosar. The prizes for the competitions were donated by Save the Children. The prizes included soccer balls, jerseys, and other sports equipment.

The CFS activities were praised by local community leaders and parents, who said that they had provided a safe and positive space for children to socialize and learn. They also said that the activities had helped children to cope with the stress of living in a conflict-affected area.

YOVENCO Organization is committed to continuing to support the well-being of children in Somaliland and plans to expand the CFS program to other IDP camps in the country.

## IMPACT ACHIEVED

- Improved child-parent relationships
- Reduced domestic violence against children
- Boosted child confidence in self-expression
- Facilitated positive parent-child communication
- Raised community awareness on negative effects of humiliating punishment



# HEADLINE: 500 SOLAR LAMPS PROVIDED TO VULNERABLE GIRLS IN RURAL TOGDHEER REGION (EIE PROJECT)

By Communications team

YOVENCO Organization, in close partnership with Plan International, has provided 500 solar lamps to school girls in off-grid rural villages in the Togdheer region, Somaliland. The girls come from some of the most vulnerable families in the region, and many of them live in areas without access to electricity. The solar lamps will allow the girls to study and do their homework after dark, which will help them to improve their academic performance.

The solar lamps were distributed to girls in seven villages in Togdheer region, which are the target locations of the Education in Emergency Project supported by Plan International. The villages are all located in remote areas and do not have access to reliable electricity. As a result, many of the girls in these villages are unable to study after dark.

The solar lamps will provide these girls with a safe and reliable source of light, which will allow them to continue their education.

"We are very happy to provide these solar lamps to the girls in these villages," said a spokesperson for YOVENCO. "We know that these lamps will make a real difference in the lives of these girls and help them to achieve their full potential."

In sum, the provision of solar lamps to these girls is a significant step forward in improving access to education in rural Togdheer Region in Somaliland. The solar lamps will allow these girls to study after dark and improve their academic performance. This will help them to break the cycle of poverty and build a better future for themselves and their families.



## IMPACT ACHIEVED

- Improved academic performance
- Increased access to education
- Improved safety

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