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**AUGUST** | 2019

# Somalia

YOUTH BULLETIN



**My body,  
My life,  
My world**

.....

UNFPA's vision is to create a world where every young person can make their own choices and enjoy their rights ...PAGE 12

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# Employing innovative art for peace building

Somali young people are employing body mapping in their quest to play an active role in peace-building as a resource for ending conflicts and sensitive cultural issues nonviolently, transforming relationships and building an environment and new capacities required for new engagement and creating new ground for intergenerational dialogue.

The initiative is being carried out under the peace building fund project being managed by UNFPA Somalia and 10 female and male youth from Galkayo, Somalia have since finished body mapping exercise.

Body mapping is a creative tool that brings together bodily experience and visual artistic expression. In its basic form, it involves painting a life-size representation of one's body onto a large surface then using vibrant colors, pictures, symbols and words to represent experiences lived through the body and showing the path that one has taken through life.

Body mapping allows young people to voice out their challenges and grievances and raise their potential of inclusion in state and peace building processes through various expressive means.





## Menstrual hygiene management

**M**enstruation is a natural, and essential, part of the reproductive cycle; roughly half the human population has or will experience it. But too often, menstruation is shrouded in mystery, leading to exclusion, neglect and discrimination.

When girls hit puberty and begin menstruation, they can see their opportunities radically diminish. Menstruation may mark the start of restrictions to their mobility and behaviour. UNFPA distributes menstrual products to women and girls in humanitarian crises. The choice of product is often determined by cultural and logistical needs. For example, in some communities, women are not comfortable with insertable supplies such as tampons or menstrual cups. In humid or rainy conditions, reusable sanitary napkins may be difficult to thoroughly dry, possibly contributing to infection risks. In other conditions, lack of waste management systems might make reusable products more desirable than disposable ones.

UNFPA Somalia has embarked on an initiative to train vulnerable girls including those living in settlements for Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) on the use of reusable sanitary napkins. The girls also access free sanitary napkins which UNFPA distributes.





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**When girls hit puberty and begin menstruation, they can see their opportunities radically diminish.**





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# Youth political participation boosted in Somalia





Fifty-five young men and women from across Somalia joined the youth political participation forum. They discussed opportunities and challenges of youth political participation. UNFPA Somalia and UN Somalia is supporting youth political participation with Folke Bernadotte Academy.

The youth met in Mogadishu on 28 and 29 July 2019 and agreed on reviving the youth caucus in the Somali Federal Parliament, establishing a mentorship network for young women and strengthening advocacy capacity on youth-led organizations.

“We are proud to be associated with the only youth political participation project in Somalia. We have to invest in young people to achieve peace,” said UNFPA Somalia Representative Anders Thomsen.



# Theatre

**Y**oung people in Garowe are using interactive theatre to promote awareness on HIV/AIDS. UNFPA Somalia supports the Y-PEER programme, a peer-to-peer youth network, that uses a combination of experiential learning methods, edutainment, social media and new technologies to convey reproductive health information.





# Basketball

**F**emale basketball players in the Puntland State of Somalia continue to raise their voices in support of the campaign towards ending child marriage with financial support from UNFPA Somalia.

Basketball for females is a new phenomenon in Somalia as sports for women in the country has been considered a taboo and culturally insensitive since the civil war in 1991. Somalia's prolonged civil war resulted into a shattered sports infrastructure but also created a difficult environment for female sports and lack of acceptance by certain religious groups who argue that sports is immodest and that Islam does not allow women to play sports or to wear shirts and pants.





## Life skills

**U**NFPA Somalia is working closely with the Ministry of Youth and Y-PEER Network on implementing life skills for young people in Somalia. The main objective is to support the implementation and institutionalizing of the skills building and civic engagement programmes at the UNFPA supported youth's centres in Somalia. The programme aims to enhance youth empowerment and engagement through enabling young people to use their voices, participate more actively in their communities, think creatively and critically about themselves and their roles in society, to make informed decisions, and to generally discover the untapped resources that exist within them.













# Blogging

The youth peer education network (Y-Peer) in Somalia is promoting youth engagement activities under the United Nations Peace Building Fund (PBF) being managed by UNFPA Somalia and UN Habitat Somalia. The Y-Peer engaged 50 young people from Kismayo in Jubaland State in Somalia in a blogging competition which is part of the innovative communication platforms encouraging the youth to actively engage in matters related to governance, peace and state building efforts.



# BLOG WRITING USE OF INNOVATIVE TO REACH OUT YOUTH & TO EXPRESS THEIR

KIS



BETTER URBAN FUTURE

# Y-PEER

SOMALIA  
Youth Peer Education Network

## Intergenerational Dialogue

**BUILDING SOLIDARITY BETWEEN THE GENERATIONS: UNDERSTANDING THE ROLES OF ELDERLY MEN AND WOMEN IN SUPPORTING YOUNG WOMEN AND MEN TO INCREASE THEIR PARTICIPATION IN PEACE AND STATE-BUILDING**

14 MARCH 2019  
BAIDOA SOMALIA

Supported by:





WASAARADDA DHALINYARADA IYO  
CIYAARAHA KGS

# Dialogue.

STRENGTHENING THE ROLE OF COMMUNITY  
ELDERLY TO INCREASE THEIR PARTICIPATION

## Inter-generational dialogue: Promoting peace across generations

**U**NFPA Somalia launched an initiative to promote inter-generational dialogue between youth and ageing people in conflict-ridden parts of Somalia to facilitate peace.

The dialogue is aimed at establishing effective partnerships between youth and community elders for peace and state building processes in the country.

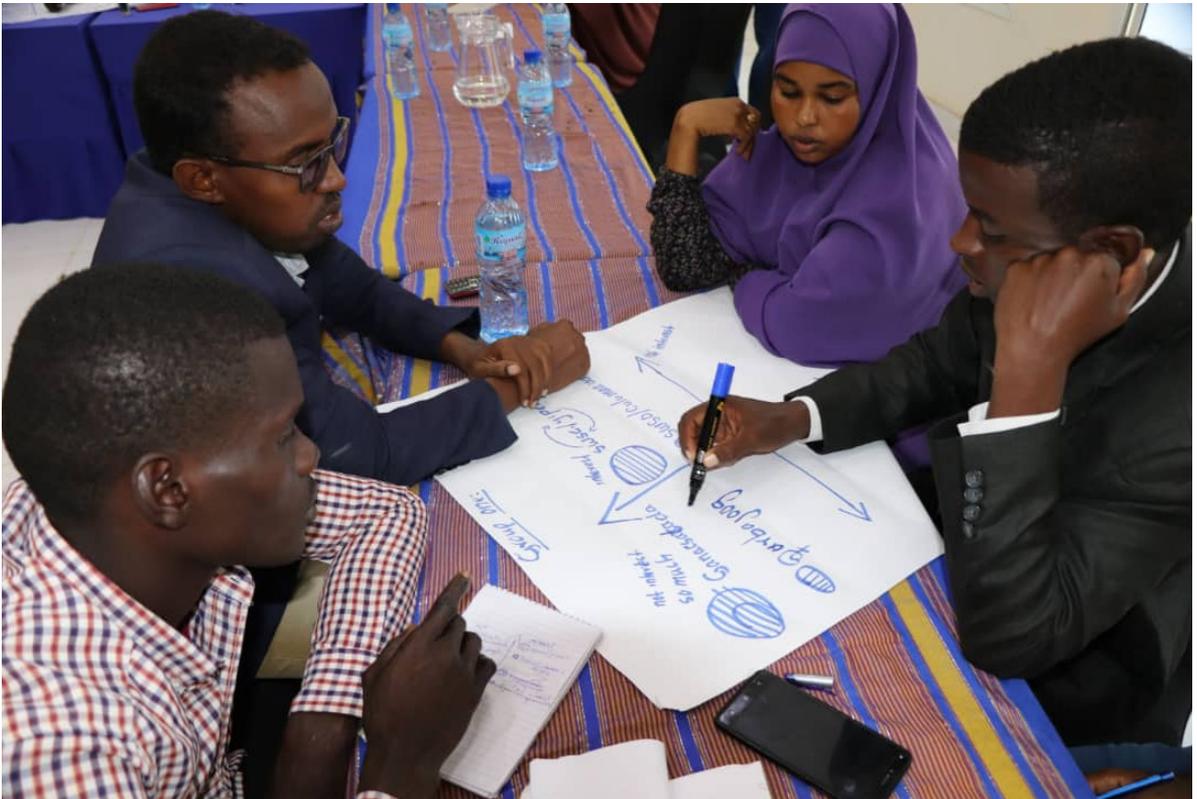




## Youth Engagement

**Y**oung people across Somalia are continuously coming together to take action to creatively transform their communities. Youth organizations are taking the lead in rebuilding Somalia.





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# Using photography for peace building

**A** group of Somali young people in Galkayo, Somalia, has embraced the art of photography and using the photos they take as a powerful way of conveying messages on conflict prevention and peace building.

UNFPA Somalia, through the UN Peacebuilding Fund, has procured cameras for youth centres and trained 10 young people on photo-voice as a participatory education tool and the critical reflective perspective it provides for the participant on inclusion and the place and role of the youth in social and political engagement in the Somali society.

This will bring out the experiences of the youth, as those often impacted the most by conflict and those who have the greatest role to play in building bridges, shaping the future of their community and their nation.











## Taking the bull by the horn; women strive for political power in Somalia

**F**adumo Moalim Ali, 27, is a female activist from Kismayu who is aspiring to become a member of the regional assembly of Jubaland State. She wants to take youth voices to the decision-making bodies of the interim

capital of Jubaland State of Somalia. She served as the chairperson of Kismayu Youth Council until the end of 2018 when she led the council to elect its new leadership through the secret ballot. Somalia is a deeply patriarchal society. Decision-making is dominated by males at household and political levels. But Fadumo and three other young women are defying the odds. “We

will be contesting for the positions as members of regional assembly in the upcoming election in August 2019. I hope to win this fight. As women, we are somehow isolated as male candidates have both the support of their clans and the finances but that will not weaken our resolve,” she said.

# Amplifying youth voices through media

**U**NFPA Somalia is supporting the use of innovative communication platforms including Facebook, Twitter, radio podcasts and web TV to reach out to young people and to create a channel for young women and men to express their vision on governance and peace building.

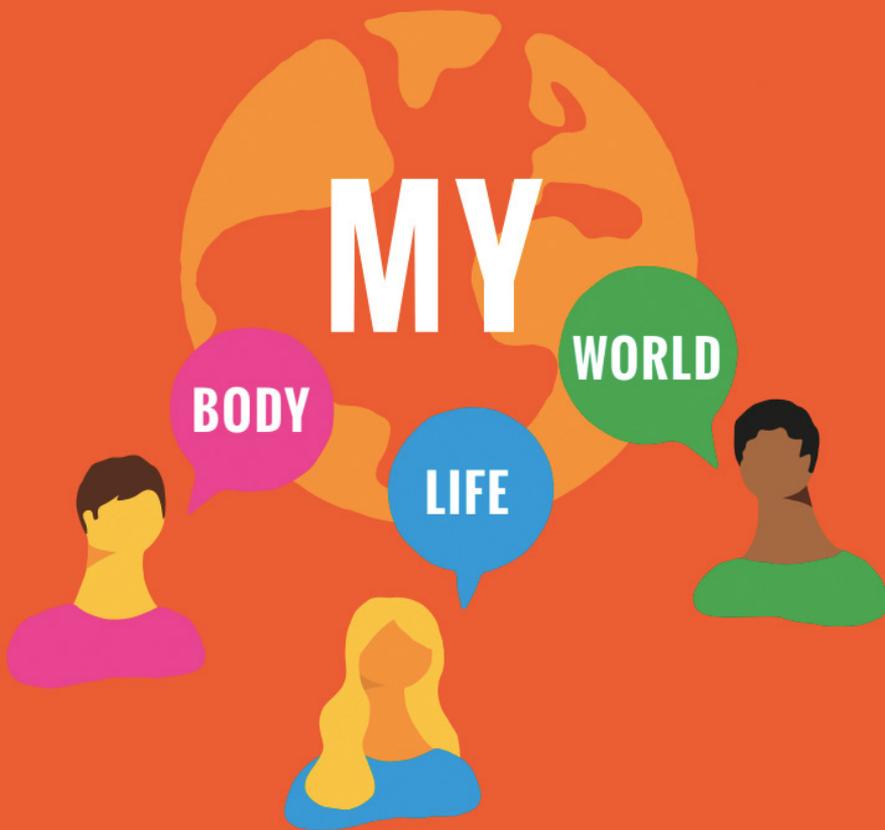
By amplifying young people's voices, the project promotes the exchange of ideas among peers and communities at large, challenging negative perceptions and fostering an intergenerational dialogue and trust. These media platforms are tools that are already popular among the Somali youth allowing for a wider platform to be reached both regionally and nationally.

The project has facilitated seven youth-led campaigns across Kismayo and Baidoa and Dollow. Through the use of innovative social media platforms, over

140,000 people were reached through Facebook, Twitter and on YouTube. A project website has also been set-up. Likewise, 130 weekly radio programmes on Youth4Peace were produced and aired in the three regions.

Young people in the three regions produced a total of 24 blogs and 16 short videos carrying youth voices on key political topics were developed. Training on communication for impact was held for youth networks in the three districts and 75 young people were trained.





**Every young person must be able to realize all of the rights and choices that they want and deserve.**

"My body, my life, my world!" is UNFPA's rallying cry for every young person to have the knowledge and power to make informed choices about their bodies and lives, and to participate in transforming their world:

- We want to ensure all adolescents and youth can make informed choices over their own bodies.
- We want to ensure that all adolescents and youth have a healthy and successful transition into adulthood.
- We want adolescents and youth to lead and participate in sustainable development.