Aayatiin Newsletter is the annual coordination meeting bulletin for youth empowerment. The input and contributions done by the different agencies working on AAYATIIN NEWSLETTER Garowe Puntland Somalia.

GOOD HABITS FORMED AT YOUTH MAKE ALL THE DIFFERENCE
~ Aristotle

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TRENDS

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Aayatiin Newsletter is a quarterly magazine to share information, highlight achievements, best practices and lessons learned for various youth issues in Puntland. The input and contributions made by the different agencies who are working in the youth sector in Puntland including UN agencies, International Organizations, Government and Civil Society organizations.
FORWARD MESSAGE

I, the minister of Labour, youth and Sports of Puntland would like to express my highest gratitude to our all diverse partners regarding the youth empowerment, capacity building and upshifting programmes. I would like to particularly mention UNFPA, UNICEF, SCI, GIZ and local partners including KAALO, FAWESOM, YPEER, PYAN regional youth umbrellas and other key participants or members of the youth sector coordination meetings whose not mentioned here, I would like to say thank you all and let us synergies our efforts so that we can achieve common goals of youth sector improvement Agendas.

Thank you very much

GOOD HABITS FORMED AT YOUTH MAKE ALL THE DIFFERENCE

Abdirahman Aidid,
Minister of Labor, Youth & Sports, Garowe.
UNFPA Somalia partners with the Ministry of youth, labour and sports of Puntland and Y-peer Puntland for the implementation of Dalbile youth initiative. Dalbile is part of European Union’s Inclusive and Local Economic Development (ILED) investment in Somalia. The overarching aim of Dalbile Initiative is to invest and empower Somali youth with skills, resources and grant so as to realize their full potentials. With aim of increasing and accelerating the socio-economic opportunities for youth, Dalbile Initiative offers various training and mentorship programs that include Bootcamps, Life Skills and Digital Literacy to inspiring youths who have earlier-stage business idea and receive investment grant in the end.

According to the PESS 2014 findings, over 74 percent of people in Puntland are under 30 years old. Like the rest of Somalia, the population aged 10-34 form half of the Puntland population.

The challenges faced by the adolescents and youth in Puntland are essentially the same as those of young people in the rest of Somalia. Puntland adolescents and youth face problems and uncertainties regarding their future. The research findings indicate major challenges that the youth face are high illiteracy levels, limited education and training opportunities, unemployment and under-employment, lack of political participation, lack of health services, radicalization, insecurity, consumption of drugs especially khat, early
marriage and the lack of a youth policy implementation that would promote social, economic and political participation of youth.

Y-peer Puntland with support of UNFPA and European union Dalbile project successfully led 5 days Business Boot camp training held in Bossaso, Goldogob and Buuhoodle. The boot camps are designed for educational initiatives that introduce youth for entrepreneurship and teaches them how to start, own and operate for their own business.

Boot camp training provides an opportunity to create jobs through self-employment. Therefore, the UNFPA offers entrepreneurship training specially tailored to youth between 18 to 25 years of age. In total, 196 (108 females and 88 Male) business-oriented has been selected, announcement calls for application were done through social media and offline via emails to youth associations, line ministries and posters in public offices. The attendees were educated new competencies through the application of innovative methods and tools, diverse inspiring experiences from the entrepreneurial ecosystem & inspired them to gain new competences to create entrepreneurial initiatives.

“95% percent of the participants knew nothing about entrepreneurship when they started the program. They left with plenty of knowledge about developing a business.”

~ Mr. Sharmake Yusuf Bossasso
Boot camp facilitator.
The good news however, is that 34 business ideas would be invested by giving away $2,000 per idea, the cohorts would be selected based on their merits and the solutions they offer. The youth fund is designated to support youth-led initiatives with viable business proposal, operational plan and tools fundamental to a running business successfully.
A DAY IN THE LIFE OF FARHIYA, A CLINIC OFFICER, A PEER EDUCATOR AND A CONSULTANT

YPPEER Puntland
Garowe Somalia.

For the past four years, Farhiya has been working at Y-PEER Puntland as a clinic officer, a peer educator, an SRHR advocator, and a consultant to gender-based violence victims.

“I’ve started working here at 2018,” said Farhiya, “when you count the years, it sounds too long, but when you see the impact you had on your community for that time, four years doesn’t sound that long.”

Farhiya Faisal, 24 years old professionally Clinic Officer living in Garowe Puntland Somalia.

Y-PEER
Farhiya, a fresh graduate from East Africa University joined the Y-PEER Puntland team with the vision of using her knowledge for the development of her community.

“I was always interested in giving back to my community, I had and still have a passion for helping others, having a positive impact and going above and beyond in providing the necessary education regarding their rights and responsibility.”

Beside being passionate about her task, Farhiya had the knowledge and skills needed to perform her responsibility the best way possible.

“As a clinic officer, we had a training programme similar to medical doctors, to carry out many tasks that are usually be done by doctors including many medical and surgical, such as anesthesia, diagnosis and treatment of medical conditions, and prescribing.”
“Helping people that are in dire need of help, people that don’t get their basic rights as a human, and are not aware of it is probably one of the best parts of the job.”

Farhiya Faisal holding an IEC material for earlier marriage awareness poster, in Garowe.
AWARENESS RAISING CAMPAIGN ON EARLY MARRIAGE THROUGH FEMALE BASKETBALL INITIATIVE

Somali girls are customarily married at a very young age (12 -15 years, or younger) and many are sold into marriage to provide dowry money for their families. There are indications that the rate of early marriage has been increasing in recent years, and is particularly high in Internally Displaced People camps.

Ministry of Labor Youth and Sports (MOLYS) with the support of UNFPA organized awareness raising campaign on early and forced marriage through basketball tournament on March 19th -25th 2022 at the Mire Aware Female Basketball Stadium Garowe. The broad ambition of awareness raising campaign is to change the community attitude, behavior, increase their knowledge of harmful practices mainly early marriage, peer and family influence to reduce the consequence of early marriage, changing perception of

Ministry of Labor Youth and Sports (MOLYS) with the support of UNFPA committed to revive basketball for young girls to encourage young girls to train and play basketball. Female basketball is a new phenomenon in Puntland state of Somalia given that sports for women is culturally sensitive and regarded as taboo in Somalia, however young brave girls have taken up the campaign and talked about the harmful consequences of early marriage through signing songs and disseminating awareness messages during the games, which attracted a lot of attention from young people.
community on early marriage and improve aerobic fitness, and cardiovascular health.

The awareness raising and community sensitization using basketball for adolescent and young females focused five villages in Garowe city. It aimed reaching 300 in and out of school adolescent and young girls in the respective areas.

Director of Sports Mr. Mohamed Mahamoud Ali welcomed the UNFPA team and the young girls, he elaborated the objectives of basket training as to increase the momentum of Awareness rising campaign on early, he mentioned that this exercise will go 6 days and the final day will hold tournament that will participate spectators which will share massages of combating early marriage.

Fatima Muhumed UNFPA Youth coordinator officially opened the camping of Awareness raising on early marriage, she pointed that this training is aimed to enhance the capability young girls to basketball as the coaches are transferring the skills and the experience required playing basketball, MS. Fatima highlighted that when a girl is married at an early age, her chances to learn, grow and realize her full potential are diminished. Finally, Ms. Fatima urged young girls to work hard and capitalize on this opportunity during the basketball training proceedings. She advised them to put the experience and skills they would get into practice and influence their peer and family members on the complications and health consequence of early marriage and to transform their role into viable change agents striving for empowerment young people.
Y-PEER organized out-reaches awareness raising campaigns on family planning, early marriage, FGM/C, HIV/AIDS and COVID 19 in Sinujiif village of Garowe districts. Sinujiif hosts 5,000 households including the IDP communities that have been displaced by climate-related issues including the drought and deforestation. The aim of this campaign was to sensitize the community on the sexual reproductive health information including the family planning, child-spacing, and the traditional harmful practices (FGM/C) as well as to offer accurate knowledge about HIV/AIDS and COVID 19 prevention. A total of 240 persons (138 female and 102 male) attended the community gatherings and benefited from the awareness campaign. During these campaigns, YPEER the project team had meetings with community elders, influential women in the village committee and religious leaders. school teachers and discussed with them on the significance of the raising the awareness of the public on the pressing issues in their community such as the eradication FGM/C and child marriage. The village figures admired the efforts of the organizations and they requested more sessions on these significant matters.
“We would like to thank you for the teachings you provided us during your stay in the village, where it is the awareness raising you did at Sinijiif Primary and Secondary School or the other sessions you held for the general public in the village. To be honest, I believe many people have learned a lot from you including me, the issues you discussed are very important, we are damaging our girls while we think we are helping them, we are not aware of the status of our health, before you came here many people believed HIV/AIDS doesn’t happen to Muslims, today, that myth and misconception is erased and every person will be vigilant and will go for HIV test before marriage”.

Mr Adan Warsame, the Chairperson of Sinujiif Village Committee.
On top of that, Y-PEER have distributed 1,020 dignity kits comprising re-usable sanitary pads and pants to adolescent girls in Garowe primary schools, Sinujiif Primary School and Sinujiif IDP settlements as part of the outreach campaign. It is aimed to support the young girls to create conducive environment for girls to reduce their dropout rate and continue their education and to reduce the disturbance during the menstruation period. The project team trained the adolescent girls on how to use and clean the re-usable sanitary pads. The young girls were happy and appreciated the items we distributed at locations since it’s the first time they receive the sanitary pad and full menstrual hygiene education.
Dialogue with young person`s to take action to end FGM

Every year, February 6 marks the International Day of Zero Tolerance to Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting (FGM/C). And Y-PEER as a champion in the fight against FGM/C in Somalia participated this international effort with the support of UNFPA. According to latest available data, at least 200 million girls and women alive today have undergone female genital mutilation. An additional 2 million girls could be at risk by 2030 due to COVID-19, resulting in a 33 per cent reduction in the progress toward ending this harmful practice. A dialogue with the young people working with the Civil Society Organization on this thematic area was organized by Y-PEER in Garowe. The aim of the event was to discuss the traditional harmful practice which is against the human rights. Internationally, it’s agreed that all procedures that involve altering or injuring the female genitalia for non-medical reasons as a violation of the human rights of girls and women. The aim of the event was to shed-light on the harmful practice that violates the rights of girls to sexual and reproductive health, security and physical integrity, their right to be free from torture and cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment, and their right to life when the procedure results in death. Besides, to commemorate the international FGM zero tolerance day and educate the general public about the dangers of FGM, gender related issues and child protection. Y-PEER wanted to use the commemoration of international FGM zero tolerance day as an opportunity and tool to advocate for the endorsement of the FGM law.

The Director General of Justice, Mr. Ismail H. Abdi delivered the opening remarks of the event, and he expressed gratitude the participants for attending the program and especially Y-PEER and UNFPA, and MoH for organizing and coordinating such event. The Director General emphasized on the importance of February 6th which is a good reminder for all human the importance of eliminating traditional harmful practices and to encourage those who are in the front-line on the fight against the FGMC. Mr Ismail H. Abdi the Director General of the Ministry of Justice “This is a worldwide day that is
celebrated internationally, including Somalia and Puntland, and it is a day dedicated to eradicating all forms of female genital mutilation which are really a threat to our young girls and therefore our united efforts are a great way to tackle this cruel and old traditional harmful practice of ruining our young girls. As you know, female genital mutilation is a violation of human rights that undermines girls’ dignity and causes serious health problems. Y-PEER UNFPA helps end female genital mutilation in Puntland through campaigns that raise awareness of the adverse effects of the practice. These efforts engage the CSOs, Youth Led-Org, religious leaders, and other influencers to change attitudes and perceptions among the local communities. It is also reaching out to parents, teachers, doctors, and midwives to spread out behavioral change messages. During the event a panel containing 5 persons from government, international and local NGOs participated a discussion session on the Role of young people in the fight against FGM/c. The dialogue panel discussion the topic and answered the moderator’s questions as well as questions from the general participants.
Y-PEER UNFPA helps end female genital mutilation in Puntland through campaigns that raise awareness of the adverse effects of the practice. These efforts engage the CSOs, Youth Led-Org, religious leaders, and other influencers to change attitudes and perceptions among the local communities.
Somalia’s history of conflict reveals an intriguing paradox--namely, many of the factors that drive armed conflict have also played a role in managing, ending, or preventing war. For instance, clan-nism and clan cleavages are a source of conflict--used to divide Somalis, fuel endemic clashes over resources and power, used to mobilize militia, and make broad-based reconciliation very elusive.

By addressing the needs of women and youth living in Garowe (IDPs and the resident host communities). PMWDO aims to bridge the gaps experienced by the most vulnerable and affected beneficiaries in the ratio of up to 60% of the target from IDP centres (with a focus on those who lacks social cohesion among the communities or even marginalized groups to be reintegrated) while also enlisting the help of up to 40% of the targeted from the host community to support the reintegration and cohesion through supporting the community base reintegration and awareness on the circumstances such as forced conscription (and youth/children’s lack of capacity to make informed choices) hence addressing misconceptions, negative perceptions, and discrimination. Additionally, the project will align to enlisting 70% youth (per IDP to Host ratios) and 30% women respectively per the output indicator 4.1 for the Department of Social Affairs.
Garowe is ideally also positioned as a key location considering its proximity to Somaliland (hence considered to be in semi-autonomous Puntland region and breakaway Somaliland) this makes the location proximal for understanding and mediating diverse opinions and points of views with the intention of long-lasting inter-communal peace building initiatives to foster social cohesion and development.

Together with the Department of Social Affairs Garowe Municipality PMWDO conducted social cohesion Tournaments both Soccer teams for boys, Basketball for girls, 8 teams have participated in soccer tournaments representing the 8 target villages of the project (4 host communities and 4 IDPs Camp), each team consists of the host and IDP members, which means 144 boys participated in the soccer tournament 50% are IDP while the other 50% were host community.

The soccer tournament was started on 20th March 2022 and ended on 30th March 2022, officials participated in the opening and closing ceremonies of the stadium these officials include the Moyer of Garowe Municipality, German of Nugal region, Police Commission of Nugal, German of Puntland football Association, Nugal regional sports Officer and Garowe district sports officer, PMWDO staff and GiZ staff. These officials encouraged such kinds of activities and they demanded to continue with other villages and villages around Garowe in order to increase social interaction, especially among youths.

Women’s Basketball teams were selected across the districts it was not conditional for getting the team on target villages as long as the Women’s playing sports is limited due to cultural barriers, the basketball team benefited 40 girls they were 4 teams and played knockout strategy.

**Sport Drawing**

Nugal regional sports office are organized a draw time toeether with Garowe sports Officer, they call all the village and do draw on 18th March 2022 for soccer and for volleyball was also done by 24 March 2022 while basketball women draw were 27th March 2022 as you see attached doc.

The next day 19th march 2022 PMWDO distributed all the sports materials they need these teams fully and coaches and village Germans, Nugal and Garowe Sports Officers, and also PFA have attended the handover ceremony in PWMDO Office.
UPSHIFT YOUTH INNOVATIVE LIVELIHOODS PROGRAM

UPSHIFT is a youth-funded, social innovation and social entrepreneurship program which empower marginalized young people to identify challenges in their communities and create entrepreneurial solutions to address them. Through this process, they have gained skills for employment and skills for life. Also, UPSHIFT is an opportunity to support youth and adolescents to become a force for positive social and economic change, contributing to a competitive labor force, and sustained economic growth.

UPSHIFT is a global innovations program, which covers over 20 countries worldwide for children and adolescents who survived protection risks including GBV survivors, children associated with armed conflicts, children in conflict with the law, and at risk of migration and other forms of neglect and abuse.

The program was piloted in 2019 in Somalia, Garowe. UNICEF, in partnership with local implementing partner, Horn Vision NGO supports the UPSHIFT programme for delivery of youth protection and livelihood interventions through social innovation and entrepreneurship in collaboration with the Ministry of Women Development and Family Affairs in Garowe.
200 interested applicants participated in project bidding. A Selection Committee consisting of HV, UNICEF, and MOWDAFA (Ministry of Women Development and Family Affairs) selected 100 youth participants including girls and boys. The first Bootcamp training was held on 11-19 November 2019, which facilitated conducted in Marti-Soor Hotel in Garowe and facilitated by the DoT team.

“In the boot camp, 100 young entrepreneurs divided into groups based on the challenges they want to address in their community while judiciously was put together members with similar ideas into the same group “. Said Mohamed Horn Vision director.

The youth participants worked on their action plans and pitched their ideas to make their business dreams into reality in front of business expert judges including representatives from the Ministry of women and family affairs, UNICEF, and horn vision”. Said Mohamed. add and the points were given deepening the on the problem there initiated to solve and the teamwork among the youth groups.

Horn Vision conducted more than 3 months of incubation for a finalized 15 youth groups who created very innovative businesses to sustain in the local business market.

“In the Incubation period we focused on tapping into the ideas of the UPSHIFT youth entrepreneur through mentorships, life skills coaching, and financial literacy to respond to real needs that are significant in the market.” Said Mohmed.

The financial awards were made after horn vision completed more than three months of incubation training for 15 youth groups who took part in the UPSHIFT Bootcamp training held in Garowe from 11-19 November 2019.

The youth participants benefited from a set of market-driven skills, and mentorship support and receive seed funds to create and run their business entities. And was Provided with technical guidance on the finalization of the 15 proposed youth initiatives during the incubation period. Provision of seed grants of $2000 for each group. After the complete process of the incubation period and investment step Horn Vision team held a fundraising forum with private sectors to support the youth initiatives.
The second UPSHIFT cohort was advertised in Garowe on 23rd November 2021 and was called for application more than 80 youths applied per group of 4 and the application was received in hard copies through the Horn Vision office in Garowe Puntland. 40 (15 boys and 25 girls) per group of 4 were selected by a panel committee including the ministry of youth, labor and ports, UNICEF, and Horn Vison and the Bootcamp training was held on the 8-12 January 2022 in New Rays hotel in Garowe.

“We received more than 80 applications during our call for applications and selected the ten initiatives based on their diversity and community solutions their want to address”. Said Yusuf Horn Vision project coordinator.

Horn vision team used modern approaches and methodologies to facilitate teamwork and brainstorming of business ideas/solutions while engaging those youth groups of UPSHIFT to make innovative business ideas driven by health and wellbeing, environmental, educational development, ICT, agriculture, and consideration of sustainability.

The trained youth participants benefit from social entrepreneurship and social innovation opportunities which included training, mentorship, and provision of a seed grant of $1200 per group in Garowe.
Also, other 60 (32 girls and 28 boys) adolescents and young people with protection concerns when through the UPSHIFT initiative where they benefited from 8 months of vocational skills training of their choices. Our young people participated in many social and scientific projects. UPSHIFT Somalia has opened new horizons for youth in Garowe and across Somalia. Training, mentorship, and financial support which has unlocked the potential of young people to become leaders in social innovation.” Said Mohamed horn vision director.

This project is live changing skills, knowledge, and experience in the country. Most of the population above 70% are youth and most of them unemployed in Somalia, so this UPSHIFT project empowered youth through social innovation and entrepreneurship, and vocational skills training which has given a platform for the youth to shun or avoid joining illegal activities, child soldiers, and illegal immigration (Tahrib).

This project made me realize that everything is possible — that to reach a goal, it is necessary to organize yourself and distribute your time evenly,” Says Hamdi, one of the youth initiatives who established Haqabtiri ICT Solution company, while learning to respect the abilities of my team as well.”
“Thanks to Horn vision for putting so much affords into mentoring, supporting, and empowering those youth groups to become young change-makers of Somalia “. Said Hana UNICEF youth and innovation associate.
LIFE SKILLS AND CITIZEN EDUCATION FOR YOUNG PEOPLE


Young people’s health status has been identified as a critical element in, and inseparable from, their ability to receive an education, engage in income-generating activities and participate in other structures of society. From a public health perspective, the most compelling reason to address young people on this issue is the fact that there are long-term implications to their behaviors. It is estimated that nearly two-thirds of premature deaths and one-third of the total disease burden in adults are associated with conditions or behaviors that began during adolescence. Adolescents and young people—between the ages of 10 and 19 years and 20 - 24 are often thought of as healthy groups. Nevertheless, many adolescents and young people die prematurely due to accidents, suicide, violence, pregnancy-related complications, and other illnesses that are either preventable or treatable. Many more suffer chronic ill-health and disability. For example, tobacco use, sexually transmitted infections (including HIV), and poor
eating and exercise habits, lead to illness or premature death later in life. Furthermore, the health and nutritional status of young people, especially adolescent girls and young women, goes on to influence that of their own children.

Engaging young girls and boys are the first and the most important priority of the Ministry of Labor Youth and Sports, the theory of change MOLYS with the support of UNFPA organized three days ToT training on Life Skills and Citizenship education for 30 TOT in order to cascaded to over 800 trainees of young people.

The aim of this training was to equip TVET instructors with extracurricular life skills comprehensive manual as to provide young people with accurate information about sexual reproductive health, human anatomy and physiology, reproduction, pregnancy, and childbirth, sexually transmitted infections and HIV/AIDS, family life and interpersonal relationships, culture and sexuality, human rights empowerment, non-discrimination, equality, and gender roles, sexual behavior, sexual abuse, gender-based violence and harmful practices, this extracurricular Life Skill Manual intended to empower young people to take control of their own behavior and in turn, treat others with respect, acceptance and tolerance and empathy regardless of their gender, ethnicity, race. Furthermore, young people are also equipped with critical thinking, communication, negotiation, decision making, and assertiveness, these skills can contribute to better and more productive young people that have good relationships with family members, peers, friends, and workmates.
The ministry of labour, youth and sports was held a two days training on introduction of social protection and one day of social protection coordination meeting which held 14-16, June, 2022 at Rayaan Part Hotel, Garowe, Puntland. The training and coordination meeting was supported by Save Children International (SCI) under SAGAL project particularly Central-North Corridor: from Dushamareb to Bossaso, and the training was invited the targeted beneficiary districts affairs (Bosaso, Qardho, Garowe, Eyl and Galkio) specially the department director of social for each municipality. Also, the training was participated MoLYS staff who are aware and in touch the social protection issues.

The overall objective of the training was to enhance the understanding of the government officers on social protection floors (schemes/security) for more effective implementation. In a specific sense therefore, the training was to:

1. Be introduced of social protection/ floors social protection Legal Frameworks.
2. Understand the social protection/security: definitions, approaches and underpinning ideologies.
4. Aware the four stages of the “selection” process and importance of identification of target beneficiaries.
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