

# ANNUAL REPORT

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January – December 2022



## Y-PEER

Youth Peer Education Network

Endorsed

YOUTH PEER EDUCATION NETWORK SOMALIA (YPEER)

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We thank all our supporters, donors, volunteers, and sponsors. In no less measure, we are grateful to the beneficiary youth who come to Tilmaane and partake in all planned activities. Many are part and parcel of the planning process, implementation and even reporting. Management thanks staff who venture in nearby as well as far flung, hard to reach areas to deliver a much-needed service.

As we plan and prepare to intensify and expand our reach, we remain indebted to all sponsors, beneficiaries, partners, youth associations and staff.

Abdikadir Hassan Dooy

Country Director

## ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

ASRH	:	Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health
BEmONC	:	Basic emergency obstetric and newborn care
BOD	:	Board of Directors
CEDAW	:	Convention on Total Elimination of All forms of Discrimination against Women
CRC	:	Convention on the Rights of the Child
CRPD	:	Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
FGS	:	Federal Government of Somalia
FGM/C	:	Female Genital Mutilation /Cutting
GBV	:	Gender Based Violence
HAD	:	Horizon of Development Actors
HIV	:	Human Immune Virus
HOPE	:	Horn of African Peace Engagement (HOPE)
ICPPD	:	International Conference on Population and Development
ICT	:	Information, Communication Technology
IDP	:	Internally Displaced Persons
iHUB	:	Innovation Hub
IOM	:	International Office on Migration
M & E	:	Monitoring and Evaluation
MISP	:	Minimum Initial Service Package
MMR	:	Maternal Mortality Rate
MOLYS	:	Ministry of Labour, Youth and Sports
MOPEDIC	:	Ministry of Planning, Economic Development and International Cooperation

MOWDAFA	:	Ministry of Women and Development and Family Affairs
OCHA	:	UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
OSC	:	One Stop Centre
PMTCT	:	Prevention of Mother-to-Child Transmission
PYAN	:	Puntland Youth Associations Network
PYPN	:	Puntland Youth Peer Network
SGBV	:	Sexual Gender Based Violence
SDGs	:	Sustainable Development Goals
SRH	:	Sexual/Reproductive Health
STI	:	Sexually Transmitted Infections
TBA	:	Traditional Birth Attendants
TOT	:	Training of Trainers
TVET	:	Technical, Entrepreneur and Vocational Training
UNDP	:	United Nations Development Programme
UNFPA	:	United Nations Population Fund
UNOPS	:	United Nations Office for Project Services
VAW	:	Violence Against Women
WASH	:	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Youth Peer Education Network (Ypeer Somalia ) remains steadfast in bringing about a positive change in the lives of youth nationally. Over the year 2022, various significant interventions in this regard were implemented by the team, largely with support of the long-standing partner UNFPA. This is the comprehensive report about various interventions. The report specifically makes an account of performance of the following projects: GBV and SRHR, including FGM and maternal child health, governance and peace as well as youth entrepreneurship and TVET at youth centres.

Y-PEER manages four Youth-friendly centers namely, Tilmaame IHub, Dandor Youth Center, Hage Youth Center and Dhahar Youth Center in Garowe, Bossaso, Buhoodle and Dhahar respectively. The youth-friendly centers offer literacy and numeracy course, ICT course, cooking, tailoring, and beauty Salon. Literacy continues to take the lions share in terms of attracting youth. the youth-friendly centers have established youth-friendly clinic which provides counseling to the to the adolescents, youth and young mothers on sexual, reproductive health and rights as well as family planning items and dignity kits. Over the year, Y-PEER with the support from UNFPA conducted a community mobilization and orientation for young girls and women to disseminate information for FGM abandonment of FGM using the story telling approach. It involved 200 youth from various walks of life, women groups, Community leaders and other stakeholders.

Besides, Y-PEER in partnership with Puntland Midwives Association (PAM), conducted deliver FGM treatment, care and prevention messages for women and girl's client at health facilities in Garowe. The intense of this activity was to support health care and FGM survivors with first-aid treatment, also families sensitized and trained to abandon FGM. Y-PEER in collaboration with Bahnaano organized a 3 days training for youth on SRH in Garowe, and reached 25 young leaders. Y-PEER conducted 3 days Training on Peacebuilding and Conflict Resolution for 30 youth leaders from youth organizations, universities, and civil society in Garowe. It was intended to address the issue of youth pace and security by focusing on the Resolutions and challenges of youth in conflict.

Y-PEER conducted a child marriage awareness campaign within Garowe Universities through theater performance. The shows addressed consequences of early marriage on individuals, families, and communities and directly reached 250(160 female 90 male). Y-peer conducted Life skills coaching & mentoring utilizing fresh university students in Garowe and Bossaso and reaching 200 beneficiaries. YPEER collaborated with Somali Academia to organize an FGM theater performance in High schools attracting large audiences. YPEER reached 2750 (1606 male and 1144 female) from 2 primary and intermediate school students and teachers.

The report goes on to feature challenges encountered, lessons learned in the process, the team's conclusions and informed recommendations follow. It follows, starting with the background:

## 1.0. BACKGROUND

### 1.1. ABOUT YPEER

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#### HISTORY

The organization's set up was initiated by UNFPA who saw the need for and potential in a youth network. Following training of trainers (TOT) in 2008, UNFPA mobilized 28 representatives of youth organizations country-wide to form the network. That was in 2009 and the youth network, then referred to as Youth Peer Education Network, Puntland (Ypeer), got officially registered with authorities in Puntland as a community based non-government organization. Initially targeting youth Associations within Puntland state of Somalia, the organization now reaches out to South Central and other parts of Somalia. This is with the exception of Somaliland which has contestations with the federal government over succession.

Recently transforming into Youth Peer Education Network Somalia, the organization is a member of the Global Youth Education Network and Horn of African Peace Engagement (HOPE. Since inception, the organization has grown from strength to strength thanks to the mentorship, technical and financial support of UNFPA. Ypeer has since become a household name as a leading network of youth and a pacesetter of youth interventions. The team has successfully implemented over 100 interventions to the satisfaction of stakeholders. This success is largely due to the generous support of UNFPA, UNDP, WFP, IOM, and several other partners.

Day by day, the organization has developed a healthy working relationship with local governments across the country. We make special mention of the Ministry of Labour, Youth, and Sports (MOLYS), and the Ministry of Women Development and Family Affairs (MOWDAFA). Others are the Ministry of Health and Ministry of Planning, Economic Development and International Cooperation (MOPEDIC) as well as DAI (a US-based international development company). For more information, please refer to YPeer website (<https://puntlandyouthpeer.org>)

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#### ORGANISATION SET UP

The organization has a board of Directors who constitute the policy-making body. The following sit on this supreme organ. Abdikadir Hassan Dooy-BOD chairperson, while the members are: Mohamed Abdulkadir Farah, Ahmed Harir Gaas, Nasteho Muse Gelle, Qamar Jama Ali, Abdiwali Ali Abdulle and Osman Jama Ali. The BOD oversees the operations of the Secretariat. The latter is made up of professional and support staff, and over the reporting period, Ypeer had 16 staff. . Given the scope of work (SOW), youth from constituent member associations volunteer their time and energy to implement various activities. Mohamed Haret is the Executive Director, having steered the organization over the last 5 years, turning it into a robust entity. This has been leveraged by the clear strategic direction and focus of the founding members.

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## VISION, MISSION AND VALUES

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### VISION

PYPN's strives to realize a vibrant youth network that is pivotal in mobilizing peers to build a community that is free from health and environmental catastrophes, discrimination, and violence and creates a conducive environment for livelihood development and sustainable use of natural resources.

### MISSION

PYPN exists to mobilize youth groups to enhance their employable skills, self-confidence, and information regarding their livelihood, environmental protection, sexual and reproductive health, HIV/AIDs, gender as well as to increase youth participation in the country's decision-making process.

### VALUES

PYPN believes in the following core principles which make the acronym -VATRIINA:

Voluntarism

Accountability

Transparency

Rule of law as stipulated in the constitution and other national/regional bylaws plus international frameworks.

Impartiality

International frameworks, policies and structures including Global Youth Peer Network policies and goals

Nonpartisan and non-political participation

Nationalism and one person- one vote principle of democracy.

Adherence to Islamic faith and Somali culture , while maintaining respect for people of other backgrounds

### FOCUS AREAS

Health with focus mostly on preventative information services in primary health care (immunization) and reproductive health. (STIs, HIV/AIDs, family planning, life education for youth, safe motherhood plus male involvement)



- Education-Y-PEER aims at supporting functional adult and youth literacy to those who missed out on primary education.
- Democracy and Peace building and Human rights [Mitigating FGM/SGBV and promoting women's rights plus child Protection].
- WASH- [Water, Sanitation and Hygiene]
- Environment Protection
- Food security, nutritional knowledge improvement

## 1.2. STRUCTURE OF THE REPORT

The report is divided into 3 broad sections: the introduction which includes the background, namely an overview of Ypeer and structure of the report. The second section is the main body of the report and gives performance of each project categorized by respective program. The report goes on to indicate challenges experienced, lessons learned, conclusions and subsequent recommendations. There are also plans which appear before the financial statement.

## 2.0. PROGRAM UPDATES (TARGETS VS ACTUALS)

### Introduction

This section features performance of each project presented program by program. It begins with the key program of health which includes sexual reproductive health (SRH).

## 2.1. HEALTH PROGRAM

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### SEXUAL /REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH (SRH) COMPONENT

### Introduction

Mindful that health covers a wide spectrum of service areas, Ypeer has strategically put its focus on the Sexual /Reproductive Health (SRH) component. This is primarily because this is the main focus of UNFPA-YPeer's main funding agency. And why this priority consideration? Sexual reproductive health awareness and rights promotion remains critical for youth. The rationale is that not only do they form the biggest population segment, they are constantly looking for change and experimentation. For that reason, they need to be mentored to engage in responsible sex

and reproductive practices. Short of that, the world will experience a population boom, already estimated at 8 billion people, and still counting. Two, whilst culture and religion do minimize pre-marital sex, abuse in IDPs is common.

## IMPROVED ACCESS TO SRH SERVICES FOR YOUTH AND ADOLESCENTS AND PROVISION OF ALTERNATIVE LIVELIHOOD TO GBV SURVIVORS PROJECT

UNFPA- YPeer’s long time development partner and mentor organization awarded a grant for the project ‘ improved access to SRH information and services for Youth and Adolescents and provision of alternative livelihood to GBV survivors and marginalized groups” The 2 year initiative runs from January 2023 to December 2025.

Table showing: SRH and GBV In-out reach awareness raising and responses in Tilmaame innovation Hub, Falidhyaale MCH and Dandor Youth center

<b>Data from Tilmaame, Falidhyaale MCH and Dandor Youth center, Jan- Dec 2022</b>	
<b>Sexual/Reproductive Health</b>	
# People reached with sexual/reproductive health services	1,330
# People reached with family planning services, information and counselling	2,650
# Normal / assisted deliveries	50
# People reached with ante-natal care consultations	820
# People reached with post-natal care consultations	1,030
# People reached with SRH information and community awareness activities	4300
# People with disabilities reached through SRH services and information	20
# People reached with GBV information and community awareness activities	3,450
# People with disabilities reached through GBV services and information	8
# Youth facilitators, peers and volunteers trained on SRH and GBV	200
<b>Total number of youths reached</b>	<b>7,978</b>

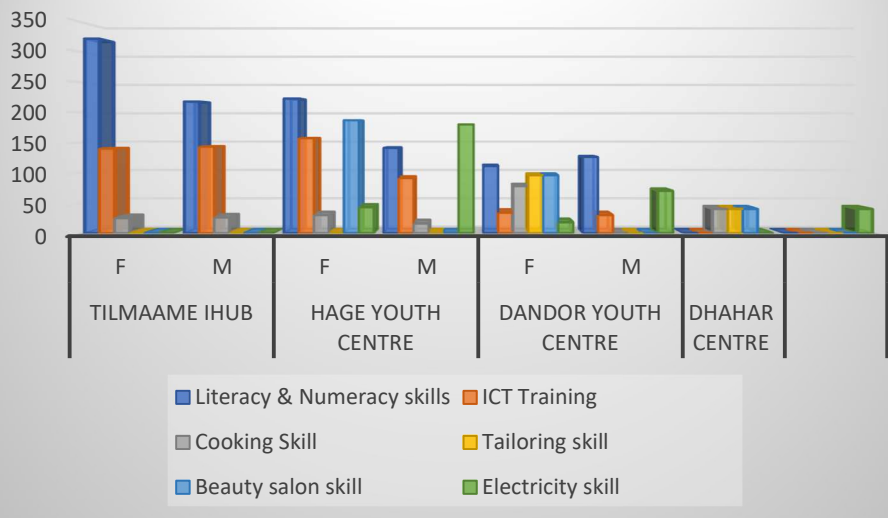
# of young people (female, male) who visited the youth center

# of young people (female, male) who received digital literacy/ICT at the center

Tables showing numbers of youth who underwent TVET

Consolidated totals for 2022															
	Tilmaame iHub			Hage Youth Centre			Dandor Youth Centre			Dhahar youth centre			Total Trainees		
	F	M	Total	F	M	Total	F	M	Total				F	M	Total
<b>Literacy &amp; Numeracy skills</b>	173	151	324	148	107	255	0	0	0	0	0	0	390	309	699
<b>ICT Training</b>	80	68	148	77	32	109	22	18	40	0	0	0	138	51	189
<b>Cooking Skill</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0	58	0	58	20	0	20	45	0	45
<b>Tailoring skill</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0	58	0	58	20	0	20	45	0	45
<b>Beauty salon skill</b>	0	0	0	131	0	131	58	0	58	20	0	20	180	45	210
<b>Electricity skill</b>	0	0	0	0	145	145	0	50	50	0	20	20	0	183	183
<b>Total Beneficiaries</b>	258	209	467	388	339	727	144	35	179	60	20	80	798	588	<b>2356</b>

Chart Title : Total no. of trainees per centre over 2022



## Significance of the performance

The data for the year shows Literacy and numeracy classes received the highest number of trainees. The youth centre with the highest frequency score was Tilmane which got more than 500 trainees in this course. The explanation is that there is a universal desire to learn basic literacy and numeracy. It is worth noting that girls made up more than 50% of this number. ON average, the next favourite course is ICT /computer training. Hage centre attracted the highest number of youths for this course. Surprisingly, the female youth enrolled more than the male. At Tilmaane, it was the reverse pattern. The team will evaluate the reasons for this and capitalize on those factors. Electrical installation remained a male preserve while cooking, tailoring and saloon were taken up by female only.

The team attributes these differentials to gender and social cultural factors. Overall, the numbers are encouraging but remain less than desirable. The team hopes to explore ways of recruiting more trainees. Besides the TVET, other services were offered and the table below gives a snapshot of service uptake at the 3 main centres.

Table showing service uptake of consolidated services offered per centre

Service uptake							
Name of centre	Face Mask & Sanitizer	Internet users & Co-Working Spaces	Life skill training & ICT	Library	Early Marriage Awareness	Sanitary Pads	Total
Tilmaame	5400	750	450	920	1200	25,000	33,720
Hage	400	120	0	0	350	0	870
Dandoor	0	150	0	0	2150	0	2300
<b>Total</b>	<b>5800</b>	<b>1020</b>	<b>450</b>	<b>920</b>	<b>3700</b>	<b>25,000</b>	<b>36,890</b>

A total of 36,890 youth took up various services, which include face mask and sanitizers, computer/internet use, innovation space use, early marriage awareness and sanitary pads acquisition.

## COMMUNITY AWARENESS RAISING SESSIONS (IN REACH & OUTREACH)

In-reach and outreach awareness raising sessions were held at Tilmame iHub and IDP on weekly bases for the beneficiaries of the other center services. The weekly sessions focused on educating attendants on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights, eradication and elimination of harmful social norms such as FGM and Early Marriage and stopping HIV stigma and promoting HIV testing, prevention, and treatment. The sessions were led and organized by well experienced and educated staff that tailored the manual to enhance the knowledge, information and understanding of the areas of focus to the beneficiaries and address the misconceptions, myths and health hazards related to these topics.

Every month, 4 sessions are held ( 2 centre based and 2 outreach) hence a total of 48 sessions were held during 2022 as planned.



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## EARLY MARRIAGE AWARENESS RAISING SESSIONS THROUGH THEATRE

### PERFORMANCES (GAROWE, BURTINLE AND DONGORONYO)

During the second quarter of 2022, Y-PEER Puntland conducted three early marriage awareness raising sessions through theatre performance at three locations under Nugal district. The sessions consisted of a role play where the performers addressed consequences of early marriage on individuals, families and communities as a whole. The performers consisting of actors, members from the target community and some of the community mobilizers of Y-peer network were pre-trained and the script was developed and written with a focus on number of aspects such as educating the target community on the consequences of early marriage and its devastating effects as well as promoting education and gender equality.

The audience reached directly was 150 individuals consisting of parents, young people, school girls whom are the most vulnerable from both the host community and IDPs. After each performance, there followed experience sharing on early marriage and how it has affected the trajectory of their life. They also addressed the dramatic increase of early marriage since COVID19 lockdown. At all shows, 80% of the beneficiaries were of the view that the performance had influenced them more than regular awareness-raising sessions. This was because the play was something they could easily understand easily and recommended similar campaigns.

“The play was really good and fun, informative but also entertaining, and to be honest, I believe I could speak for a lot of people when I say these kinds of campaigns are more effective than regular ones. It has the potential to change harmful norms since it includes an emotional and fun story where you sympathize with characters, feel their emotions and watch them express and showcase the consequences and impacts of early marriage,” said Said Salah, a father of two young girls who attended the awareness raising campaign in Dongoronyo with his two daughters.



### COMMEMORATION OF INT DAYS FOR AWARENESS RAISING

Ypeer utilized various international human rights days in the year 2022 to highlight issues regarding youth. These are presented in the following table:

Activity No.	Day	Activity held	Target	Actuals	Remarks
1	Intl Day of Zero Tolerance for FGM (6 <sup>th</sup> Feb)	With UNFPA support, held a dialogue with young persons to end FGM			
2	Intl Day of Zero Tolerance for FGM (6 <sup>th</sup> Feb)	Also raised SRHR awareness event at Tilmaame iHub for young girls			
3	Intl Women's Day on 8 <sup>th</sup> March	Hosted a Twitter Space discussing Challenges and Opportunities facing Somali Female Entrepreneurs			

### Conclusion

Through the various awareness raising approaches, Ypeer systematically reached out to more than 2000 youth , influencing their SRHR attitude and practice change.

### SUPPORTING MATERNAL CHILD HEALTH (MCH) FACILITIES

Maternal and neonatal mortality are major public health problems worldwide as well as in Puntland Somalia. Somalia ranks 6th globally, with one of the highest maternal mortality rates (MMR) of 692 per 100,000 live births in the world (Somalia Health Demographic Survey report, 2020). Most of these deaths are preventable. Many women suffer major complications due to pregnancy or

child-related illnesses. Many die or suffer near misses due to lack of access or lack of knowledge of health services. Delay in seeking medical care is one of the most significant factors contributing to maternal deaths in Somalia. This is largely due to cultural beliefs and practices, lack of knowledge about complications and the benefits of modern health care services, and women's low status in society.

In Sool region, the health infrastructure is small, concentrated mainly in towns, in remote areas like Faleedhyale and lacks maintenance. The health workforce is small, under-skilled, and aging. In addition, this report will describe challenges and outline major areas to be addressed in the provision in Faleedhayle Maternal and Child Health Care services these poor health conditions were worsened severe droughts after it washed away their houses and properties.

The aim to launch BEMONC centre was to reduce the risk of maternal and child deaths, through promptly responding to and managing complications causing maternal deaths. This strategic intervention for UNFPA and Y-peer emphasizes the need for a carefully planned maternal delivery care services. Offering continuous support during labor and childbirth is critical to ensure that every delivery is assisted by a skilled birth attendant in health facilities, with the availability of BEMONC facilities. After the second quarter the mobile clinics health services ended but the BEMONC clinics in the afore-mentioned towns continue to offer health services to the community.

## 2.2. YOUTH LIVELIHOODS, EMPOWERMENT AND INCLUSION IN DECISION-MAKING

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### YOUTH FRIENDLY TVET CENTRES (TILMAAME, DANDOR AND HAGE AND AGRAN)

Under the 5-year (2021-2025) agreement signed between UNFPA and YPeer, the organization continued to operate 3 youth centers. A fourth centre, Hage located in Buhoodle, was constructed and they all offer a safe space for young people, sheltering them from terrorist groups, street gangs and clan clashes. Each centre provides basic literacy and numeracy skills, ICT skills, technical and soft skills to the adolescents and young people while Tilmame iHub offers youth friendly clinic service including family planning services, psycho-social support to vulnerable adolescents, young mothers and drop-out students. In addition, the centers provide awareness-raising sessions and dialogues against traditional harmful practices such as FGMC and child marriage.

Awareness-raising sessions on COVID-19, and sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs), HIV AIDS in particular were given to the youth. The aim of these interventions is to improve the capacity of young men and women as well as to reduce their economic vulnerability through the provision of employability skills that can support them generate income. Of equal importance, youth centers enabled youth to access vital information about their sexual and reproductive health rights to make informed and rightful decisions. The target beneficiaries are GBV survivors, traditionally marginalized groups, people with disability, adolescents, young mothers, and IDP communities.



Locally marketable vocational skills were provided to a total of 159 youths (97 female and 62 male) in Dandor and Hage Youth Centers in Bosaso and Buhodle respectively. The purpose of this specific activity was to enable the target youth to get increased income and employment opportunities by training them in marketable skills for a period of three months. Specifically, the courses provided were : cooking, tailoring, Henna beautification cosmetics and electricity installation. The implementation of the training activity covered three months commencing from 1<sup>st</sup> April to 30<sup>th</sup> June 2022. More than 95% of the training sessions were practical. This created enthusiasm and interest to the trainees and the attendance of the classes in the last two months of the training period was extremely satisfactory.

They were selected after outreach campaigns were conducted in IDP camps and neighborhoods of traditionally marginalized groups and poor households in respective districts. After the completion of the training, the passed-out trainee technicians looked forward to acquiring jobs while 32% of them established their own SMEs based on respective technical skills. Quality assurance mechanism were adhered to by trainers and monitored by Ypeer project team. A training supervisor was hired to ensure the quality and the quantity of training services that each trainer is providing to the trainee. The training supervisor collected all the daily attendance and preparation books of the trainees. The training supervisor used to check the preparation books and the lessons delivered against the planned training manuals.

The training supervisor participated in the training sessions and practical lessons of the trainees to ensure the quality of skills that the trainees are exposed to during the entire process. If a Trainer was found to be lagging behind, he/she was advised to improve the training techniques and modalities. Besides the TVET training, all youth centers provide SRH information, library service, and distribution of sanitary pads among adolescents and youth from marginalized communities including IDPs. In addition, the centers provide awareness raising sessions and dialogues on Sexual Reproductive Health for adolescents, youth and women, as well as child marriage. During the reporting period, a total of 1800 sanitary pads were given out to adolescents from IDPs and poor hosting communities. The breakdown is as follows:

Youth Center	Library		Sanitary Pads distribution		Youth Clinic SRH Information		Recreational Activities and Networking	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Tilmaame Innovation Hub	299	151	0	900	157	208	220	145
Dandor Youth Center	137	243	0	0	42	169	348	121
Total beneficiaries per service	350	394	0	900	199	377	568	266

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## HAGE YOUTH CENTRE , BUHOODLE

Hage Youth Center , located in Buhoodle was constructed by Y-PEER using a sub contractor through Dalbile funding and it is owned by the government. It measures 741 Square metres is designed as a youth friendly center that offers the following services to the Somali youth in Buhoodle:

1. Vocational Training Rooms: these are standard classrooms for vocational training courses, it is used for basic electricity, plumbing, and beauty salon courses during the different times of the day.
2. ICT Room: This is the computer lab and it can be installed with 24 computers. It will be benefited by the youth enrolled to take computer literacy courses.
3. Counseling office: This is a counseling office where youth can get psychosocial support regarding personal trauma. There are plans to turn it into a youth friendly clinic to offer sexual reproductive health information and products.
4. Playground: This is an open space in the center where it can be turned into a basketball field where young women and men can hold sports tournaments.
5. Meeting hall: It can host 70 persons and it used to hold awareness-raising sessions on FGM, GBV and SRH as well as other community engagement and dialogues.
6. Separate toilets for male and female: separate toilets are available at Buhoodle Youth Center
7. Water Tank: The youth center has a water tank as its water source.

The EU funded project was supervised by Y-Peer, whose engineer oversees the progress, provide technical support to the contractor, and perform quality control activities. Following the site supervision, the team recommends the release of the second installment which is 70% percentage. This is as per the agreement clause in the contract for the construction of Buhoodle Youth centre.

### Success story on FGM

*Hawa 20 years old said, " in fact, I did not understand the real problems of FGM until I was an adult when I found out about the psychological and physical conditions that I have because of the circumcision I was done when I was young. I want to start raising awareness about circumcision among my family and relatives so that my younger children are not circumcised. In fact, at first, it was difficult for me to convince my aunts and uncles and my older brothers and sisters, and they used to tell me to run, " don't circumcise your daughters. We are going to the point where they finally accept that the circumcision of girls is only sunna and not Ibada (compulsory). In fact, it is a big problem to eradicate circumcision until society's culture and thoughts are changed." Hawa said*

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## YOUTH ENTREPRENEURSHIP MENTORSHIP - DALBILE INITIATIVE

Y-PEER was selected for the second year running to be an implementing partner (IP) of the youth entrepreneurship and support program of Dalbile Youth Initiative in Puntland region. Dalbile Initiative is a youth focused agency supported by UNFPA and EU, IOM and Netherlands, aimed at accelerating socio-economic status of Somali youth. It invests and empowers youth with skills, and financial as well as technical resources to achieve their full potential. A rigorous selection process starts with scanning the expressions of interest (EOI) to undertaking due diligence. A total of 673 aspiring youth applied for the 5 grants and Ypeer team meticulously selected 360 individuals (120 for each of the cities of Bosaso, Garowe and Galkayo).

The selection process is based on a standard criterion: priority consideration to local residents, youth with disabilities and applicants from female-headed households. During the boot camps, following the selection of viable enterprises, Ypeer is also tasked with providing relevant skills to the successful groups. Over 2022, a total 20 groups each with an average 4 members were selected and given 2000 USD per group. The groups came from Bosaso , Buuhoodle and Galdogob , After due diligence and availing the funds, as well as the pre-requisite training, Ypeer undertakes rigorous M & E to ensure funds are expended properly. Before and during implantation of the group business plan, Ypeer together with the ministry of Commerce must give the bank a go ahead to release tranches of cash. A key condition is that the group must have implemented the planned activities to satisfaction of Ypeer and Ministry.

The outcomes of the microgrants is that groups have started their own SMEs which are successful. Examples include Allaha Barakeeyo located in



Pictures of front of Allaha Barakeeyo Electronic firm started by group, Galdogob

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## YOUTH FORUMS/DIALOGUES

Y-PEER manages three Youth-friendly centers namely; Tilmaame iHub, Dandor Youth Center and Hage Youth Center and Agaran TVET center in Garowe, Bosaso, Buhodle and Galkayo respectively. The youth-friendly and TVET centers offer socio-economic empowerment activities including: basic literacy and numeracy skills for adolescents and youth who never been to school, basic TVET courses such as; cooking, tailoring, and beauty salon, electricity and plumbing to

marginalized youth and women including GBV survivors and economically vulnerable youth and women from IDPs and poor hosting communities.

The aim of these tailored courses is to give youth a second chance of accessing basic education. This will enable them to continue further studies and be able to become productive members of their communities. On top of that, the youth-friendly centers have established youth-friendly clinic which provides counseling to the the adolescents, youth and young mothers on sexual, reproductive health rights including child spacing education and services, as well as dignity kits.

Through Dalbile Youth Initiative, mentorship and coaching was provided to 221 young entrepreneurs (57% male and 43% female) who went through Ideation training in the last quarter in Bosaso, Galdogob and Buhodle districts. The mentorship was carried out through both physical and virtual meeting. Entrepreneurship experts and they guided the participants on developing Business Plans, Financial Plans, Pitching tips, crowd-funding tactics and Dalbile Fund application process.

Y-Peer with the support from UNFPA Somalia conducted a workshop to localize the Nairobi Commitment, especially to youth-led organizations and students from universities in Puntland Garowe by organizing a two-day seminar for 50 Youths (30 females, 20 male) from Puntland universities and youth-led organization.

Besides, Y-Peer in partnership with Center for Peace and Social Solution (CPSS), a local peace organization in Galkayo district, conducted a forum on the role of youth in peacebuilding processes and security in Galkacyo. The purpose of this event was to strengthen peace and security in the conflict-affected society with a historical complex of social conflicts and routine insecurity.

In collaboration with MUDAN Youth Umbrella, Y-PEER organized a forum on youth participation in politics and governance. This targeted 30 youth leaders from youth organizations, universities, and civil society in Puntland. It was intended to highlight the opportunities and challenges of youth political participation.



## Success story

### University Students Leadership and the Potential for Youth Political Participation

During the forum, since the majority of participants were university students, it was discussed the potential of campus politics and overall governance of students at university. They freely shared ideas about enhancing youth political participation and how they can create the seeds for a active future engagement in the political system.

Zakariye Abshir, pictured in the right below, is the Chairman of the student Union of the University of Bosaso Garowe Campus. During the forum, he found it interesting and relevant to his role as a student leader. He pointed out that student bodies can play a pivotal role in preparing students to participate in politics and governance. He stated that “At University, we engage in active politics albeit on a smaller level. We campaign, organize, and hold elections with some students, acting as referees in election committees.

Student bodies and related activities train students on debates, mock elections and enhance student knowledge of campaigning, election management, vote counting and procedures. This is an important stage to foster introduction of youth to democratic ideals and practices.

Zakariye states “Also, undertaking governance training helps a trainee to acquire skills of governing, concession, agenda setting, planning and community outreach. This is very important for the growth of our civic engagement skills”

Among other strategies, it is highly recommended to support activities which increase the engagement of students in the political process, given we are future leaders.



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## SOCIAL MEDIA PLATFORMS FOR YOUTH MOBILISATION

Since our target audience is young people, one of the best ways to reach them is through social media. Ypeer opened accounts and engaged youth through the platforms, namely : Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. Here is a chart showing the performance on each social media platform per quarter.

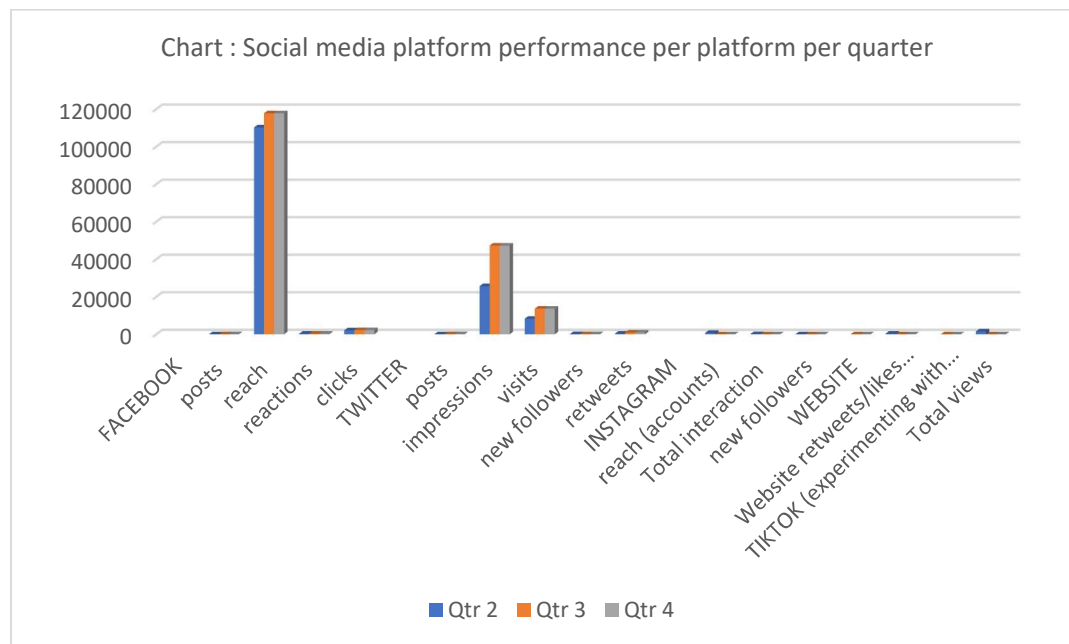
Social media platform performance per platform per quarter

	Qtr 2	Qtr 3	Qtr 4
No. of participants per Quarter			
<b>Facebook</b>			
posts	0	70	70
reach	110,214	117788	117788
reactions	309	310	310
clicks	2100	2265	2265
<b>Twitter</b>			
posts	45	78	78
impressions	25,652	47300	47300
visits	8326	13645	13645
new followers	70	108	108
retweets	374	936	936
<b>Instagram</b>			
reach (accounts)	790	0	0
Total interaction	100	0	0
new followers	20	0	0
website		0	0
Website retweets/likes Reading human stories	374	0	0
<b>Tiktok (experimenting with this new app)</b>			
Total views	1545	0	0
Views in past month (October)	3710	0	0

Quarter two and three were certainly bumper harvest periods. Ypeer will explore why data is not coming through for qtr. 4. Whatever limitations the data may present, social media use for youth engagement is the way to go.



Chart illustrating performance overall over the year 2022



### Summary of the social media performance

#### FACEBOOK

Facebook page had more interaction and engagement than any other social media. We had a total reach of over 300,000 over the year.

#### TWITTER

Over the year 2022, Ypeer twitter gained a good number of impressions. The tweets had an engagement rate of 5.1% and a total impression of over 120,000 with over 250 impression per day.

#### INSTAGRAM

We reached total accounts of over 1200 with a total interaction of more than 300 as well as over 200 new followers. On the website, we had more than 5000 visits reading published human stories. As a part of the action plan, the team shifted our focus towards certain trendy applications like Tiktok. Although it is still in piloting stage, it equally got a good reception. We aim to reach more audience within the coming year 2023. Competitions and other interactive social media campaigns promoting gender equality, changing harmful social norms, peace building, educating on SRHR and awareness raising on HIV, GBV will be launched.

## 2.3. GOOD GOVERNANCE, HUMAN RIGHTS AND PEACE BUILDING PROGRAM

### TRAINING OF HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS PROJECT

The 2-day training was conducted from 8th -9th June 2022 in Garowe, the capital city of Puntland State, and was intended to familiarize civil society members with legal frameworks and principles of Human rights, monitoring and reporting. The focus was on provision of technical assistance to Puntland Civil Society including training on Human Rights Monitoring and Reporting on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and Awareness Raising on COVID 19. The objectives of the training were to increase the understanding of human rights workers on existing human rights instruments and legal documents ratified by United Nations; secondly its importance in the promotion of human rights and prevention of all types of violations. Finally, the training aimed at identifying the key challenges of economic, social and cultural rights.

Related to the skills acquisition, it was meant to explore the groups that are most vulnerable to violations in Puntland context. The training was highly interactive and youth gained key concepts and ways of reporting of human rights violations. The training was provided to 10 persons (6 male, 4 female) from civil society organizations (CSOs) and youth groups in particular. Participants were nominated by their respective organizations to attend the training in human rights, with focus on monitoring and reporting of economic, social and cultural Rights.



Yonis Burale, a volunteer for Horizon of Development Actors (HDA), a civil society organization based in Nugal, stated in his closing remarks thus, “the training was an eye opener and informative. I have learned many things including basic human rights aggravated by Covid19 pandemic. These include the right to privacy, education, health, life and information, ESCRs



monitoring and reporting tools, methodologies and strategies for information gathering and the approach used for the training was very innovative, providing us a window for discussions and exchange of information. As a member of civil society, we often hear that the Puntland Constitution guarantees you basic rights but often times, it doesn't exactly acknowledge the mechanisms that ensure the citizen to have those rights," expressed Yunis. He concluded that " it was enlightening to learn and figure out how and to whom to report when encountering a human rights violation, educating general public on their rights and the articles in the law that protects them."

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#### PARTICIPATION OF YOUTH IN DECISION-MAKING



## 2.4. YOUTH ENTREPRENEURSHIP & ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT PROGRAM

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#### MENTORSHIP FOR YOUNG ENTREPRENEURS DALBILE PROJECT

In Somalia most new business fail in the first few months, year or first few years. 20% of new business fail during first 2 years of opening, 45% during the first 5 years and 65% during the first 10 years. This means only 15% of the new businesses make it in the first 15 years of existence. The main reasons for failure of startups are limited mentorship and training for entrepreneurs on relevant matters.

Considering the above data, the Dalbile project offers mentorship training for young entrepreneurs. Y-PEER with the support of UNFPA under the Dalbile Youth Initiative provided

mentorship to previously trained young entrepreneurs in Bosaso, Buhodle and Galdogob districts. The mentorship for entrepreneurs was aimed to fill the gap of lack of business expertise on spot and getting undivided business ideas and consultation. Y-PEER mentor gave these mentees two days training in various aspects of their chosen enterprise and business dynamics. Khadra Ali, UNFPA Youth fund grant manager joined via zoom to give the basics about what leads to success of a small enterprise as a word of encouragement. The trainees were given business ideation bootcamp training and one-to-one coaching in entrepreneurship.

#### Methodologies used to deliver the training

- Pre- test evaluation
- PPT Presentation
- Open discussion
- Experience and knowledge sharing
- Post evaluation
- Training Material
- Handbooks & pens
- Flipcharts
- Markers
- Sticker Notes
- Projector
- Multimedia and videos
- Pictures

#### Training Topics

- 1) Business Mentorship
- 2) Benefits of business mentoring
- 3) Business communication
- 4) Business mentoring style and appropriate use.
- 5) Leadership and business mentoring.
- 6) Roles and Responsibilities of the mentor and mentee

During the business ideation bootcamp training the trainees got the chance develop their business ideas. This training helps mentors to understand their role supporting, encouraging, and facilitating mentee’s learning and development.

It ensures one approach, one language and common understanding of mentoring the future enterprises, and the concept of mentoring is put into context of business innovations and becomes tangible. The business mentoring is a relationship between trainee, as an entrepreneur, and YPEER with business experience who is willing to act as a guide. The business mentor offers advice, guidance and support to help the mentee run and improve your business. There were a total of 76 mentees ,57% being male while 43% were female which shows there is a small gap between the two gender groups.



*Mentorship in progress*

The purpose of the mentorship was to help the mentees to manage their own learning in order to maximize their potential, develop their skills, improve their performance and to reach their goal in business. The mentors provided tailored guidance to the mentees based on their specific

needs and goals. The mentorship period was 3 months and it had three main sections which are:

- Presentations and discussions on mentorship
- Practical guidance on how to apply the grant
- Develop an outstanding business plan.
- Best practices of sustainable and innovate businesses.



*Mentorship training workshop*

During this session the trainee were given presentation and detailed business mentoring and working mechanisms. The mentor used participatory teaching method to maximize the mentee participation and information and knowledge sharing. These kinds of presentations gave the mentee the detailed package of education and clear view of what our mentorship and business incubation mean and how our exit strategy will occur in when the business become independent from YPEER organization. The mentee and mentors discussed openly how the mentorship and business incubation. These mentoring trainings gave the mentees the opportunities to share ideas and experience among themselves related to business development.

During the second session mentors showed step by step grant application and required information and the best practices to submit a good application with high success rates. YPEER field mentor, the chairperson and Khadra from UNFPA gave the practical session to mentees majorly focusing on the grant application and grant guidance.

During YPEER chairperson joined this session to give step by step guidance in filling grant application forms and success of the business plan. The trainees were also mentored on filling out the financial plan form and pitching video requirements and how to do business pitching. Khadra from UNFPA, Abdulkadir from Ypeer joined the mentorship training via zoom. A total of 360 people attended the bootcamp training in Bosaso, Buhodle and Goldogob,. The participants consisted of young people with business acumen, some with entrepreneurial skill sets and brilliant business ideas, and others with the potential to develop their ideas better. The selection process was based on standard criteria. This was prioritizing local residents, young people with disabilities, and applicants from female-head households.

## 2.5. INTERNATIONAL AND NATIONAL CONFERENCES

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### INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT (ICPD)

#### Introduction

An international conference dubbed the Nairobi ICPD25+ brought the global community together in the summit to reflect on and proactively respond to the rapid population growth. It firmly established that the rights and dignity of individuals, rather than numerical population targets, were the best way for individuals to realize their own fertility goals. Furthermore, governments acknowledged that these rights are essential for global development. A presentation was made about progress in implementation of President Abdullahi commitments during the Summit. They include pledges on ending harmful practices like GBV, prevent maternal death through universal health universal education, promoting gender equity, harnessing the demographic dividend, and supporting population programs.

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### NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT (ICPD)

Y-PEER with the support of UNFPA Somalia conducted a localized event in Garowe. A 2-day seminar was held for 50 youths (30 females, 20 male) from Puntland universities and youth-led organization led by Puntland Youth Network Association (PYAN). The sessions were facilitated by Anisa Abdiqafar, and Mohamed Haret, who participated in the Nairobi summit while Kamal Dahir helped them in the preparation of the manuals and the ICPD toolkit.

The ICPD25+ Garowe follow up workshop, declared the following commitments:

- To stand up for zero tolerance of sexual harassment in the universities,
- To stop using single-use plastic for refreshments and events in Puntland
- To raise awareness of ICPD25 commitments,
- To work with community groups and women-led organizations in reducing GBV,
- To translate the ICPD25 toolkit to Somali for students in high schools to embolden them early,
- To increase awareness of the public and decision-makers on the progress and gaps,
- To advocate for youth decision makers' positions and political participation inclusions,
- To fully realize the vision of the ICPD25 and achieve "three zero" targets in Somalia by 2030,
- To localize and familiarize ICPD25 Somalia commitments to youth and youth-led organizations and explore how youth can support the Government in addressing GBV

## 3.0. LESSONS LEARNED

It was noted that public debates, panel/forum discussions and social media lives/spaces result in wider engagement than normal regular awareness sessions. At the library, attendants witness few or low numbers of female youth coming in. Explanations are varied with the primary cause being that girls have household chores at home. There may be need to explore innovations to take the books to the intended female user, if the user will not come to the books. At the youth centres, gender constructs still determine youth attendance of a given sex in a vocation. This is because some are traditionally considered a preserve of women (cooking and tailoring, and saloon) while electrical and ICT seem to be a male dominion. Additionally, inadequacy of medical supplies in the last 2 years has hindered effective service delivery in the youth-friendly clinic.

Finally, gaps in the reporting hinder a comparison of results achieved versus the targets. This is going to be a focus in the M & E function. Related to this, the lack of a substantive and qualified M & E Officer means the function is ad hoc and not done systematically. Ypeer will seek funding to employ a full-time, well-qualified M & E manager to ensure all programs/projects balance the 3 vital project pillars of the scope of work (SOW), budget, and time.

## 4.0. CHALLENGES

### **Limited fund:**

Appreciating the generosity of UNFPA to Ypeer, the magnitude of work and emerging needs cannot be met with limited resources Ypeer is able to secure from UNFPA.

### **Social gender and cultural constructs** which hinder program implementation

Illiteracy rate is the number one hindrance of our target population particularly IDP communities in accessing and taking up Ypeer services. With high illiteracy, the field team finds it cumbersome to convey written messages, adopting oral communication and use of song and community drama.

**Cultural norms** stand in the way of service uptake, including family planning (child spacing). There is evidence of enduring nervousness of some of the participants who didn't find it comfortable to discuss what is considered sensitive subject matter. This includes sex and sexuality.

The team, owing to transport costs and fears of insecurity do not reach every hard-to-reach community. This means that pastoral areas don't receive mobilization and awareness raising activities yet most cases of GBV are reported within those communities.

Report writing is hampered by language barriers and limitation in report writing skills, with only a few staff able to handle this effectively.



## 5.0. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS (OVERALL)

Following the lessons learnt throughout the project implantation over the year, several conclusions and recommendations are hereby made:

There is need to be supported further to sustain provision of basic medical supplies especially family planning supplies to youth friendly centers

Developing a new guidance document to strengthen the ethical conduct of all research on FGM

To conduct more research so as to generate evidence and knowledge about the causes, consequences of the practice, and how to care for those who have experienced FGM;

Increasing advocacy: developing publications and advocacy tools for local efforts to end FGM.

Other recommendations made by the program team are:

- ✓ Rural hard to reach communities in remote areas need to be reached out so as to access all Ypeer information and clinic services,
- ✓ Expand the scope of services provided by the youth centers, given an increasing uptake.
- ✓ Expand the time of training and mentoring programs to allow participants to consolidate skills as well as provide follow-up support services to TVET graduands.
- ✓ To sustain the BEMONC services in the three villages and community
- ✓ Facilitating and building the capacity of the TBAs.
- ✓ Increasing advocacy including tools for policymakers to accelerate efforts to end FGM,
- ✓ Increase protection packages for the women and community at large;
- ✓ More awareness raising is needed through media, community meetings and home visits
- ✓ Establishment of recreation/rehabilitation/ protection centres.
- ✓ More training on GBV case management to respond to cases of violence against women.
- ✓ Improve community policing by equipping community watch groups.
- ✓ Increase funding to stakeholders to effectively tackle violence against women(VAW),
- ✓ Community conversations to be increased to mobilize men and women to actively engage in family health issues.
- ✓ More campaigns and programs on SRHR and youth employment plus placement be mounted using innovative approaches like theater which appeal to young people.
- ✓ To formalize and facilitate as well as build capacity of regional representatives to expand Ypeer programs especially on youth education and training as well as SRH information
- ✓ Ypeer needs to employ a full time, well-qualified M & E to ensure all programs/projects are monitored closely as per targets/milestones. Equally, to reach out to new areas, the position of deputy managers is recommended.

## 6.0. LOOKING AHEAD (PLANS)

The last section of this annual report focuses on the future. Ypeer has in store a few upcoming changes, goals, and sustained vision for the coming years. There are efforts to build capacity of the organization. This will entail training staff in various aspects, reviewing policies, systems and mechanisms. Ypeer will gratefully continue to rely on the generous support of UNFPA and other UN agencies. To avoid the risk of donor fatigue and over dependence, however, Ypeer plans to widen the fund-raising efforts, enlisting other donors. In particular, Ypeer will solicit funding to increase GBV OSC from the current 2 to 6 by end of 2023. At each centre, the Minimum Initial Service Package (MISP) will be adhered to.

Additionally, the ABC strategy will be promoted at youth clinics to eliminate STIs altogether. Ypeer will continue to support the MCH and hospitals which are implementing partners. The need for accelerated SRH service uptake is more than ever before urgent. Ypeer will continue to give financial and in-kind support to MCH centres in Lasnood and other areas facing a humanitarian situation.

Staff need capacity building in several areas: from formulating annual work plan and budget, monitoring and evaluation, report writing, community mobilization, use of the media and use of theater. There are plans to engage a technical resource person for a given period. Given Ypeer is being inundated with requests to set up offices and youth centres in various parts of the country, expansion is being explored. So is the need for building staff strength if emerging human resource needs are to be met effectively. There may be some restructuring to rationalize staff, deploying individuals where their expressed skill sets are most valuable. There is a renewed focus of effective monitoring and evaluation of all projects and interventions to ensure value for money.

The governance and human rights program will be strengthened, possibly with a qualified staff recruited. The staff will be guided routinely by the human rights' international agreements. These include CRC, CEDAW and CRPD. Use of social media will be enhanced and particularly new applications which are trendy and appealing to youth. The Ypeer team aims at reaching more audiences with each passing year, by creating competitions and other interactive social media campaigns.

It is our call out to well-wishers to complement UNFPA's lending hand. If you have an idea on how to support Ypeer technically, financially, or in-kind, please contact us through our social media or address on our website.