



ANNUAL REPORT

Year ending December 2023



Table of Contents

Abbreviations and acronyms	3
Acknowledgement.....	Error! Bookmark not defined.
Foreword from the Country Director	5
Executive Summary	6
1.0. INTRODUCTION	7
2.0. ACHIEVEMENTS AND MILESTONES	10
2.1. Dalbile Youth Initiative.....	10
2.1.1. Dalbile Boot camp training and grants award	10
2.1.2. Social Enterprise Investment and Youth Grants	12
2.1.3. Mentoring and coaching program.....	13
2.1.4. Puntland Job Fair.....	16
2.1.5. Life Skills Training	18
2.1.6. Future Ready Skills Training.....	19
2.1.7. Supporting Civic Engagement and accountability through Radio	21
2.2. Scaling Up School Health Education on Early Marriage Awareness campaign....	22
2.3. FGM Movement.....	23
2.4. Inter-Agency Sub-Cluster - FGM Task Force Coordination	25
2.5. Youth Centre youth-friendly service provision	26
2.6. The Basic Emergency Obstetric and Newborn Care (BEmONC) in Sool region ...	29
2.7. Institutional and Staff capacity Building	33
3.0. SUCCESS STORIES AND IMPACT	34
4.0. LESSONS LEARNED	37
5.0. CHALLENGES AND MITIGATION	37
6.0. FUTURE INITIATIVES	39
7.0. CONCLUSION AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT	40

Abbreviations and acronyms

ANC	:	Ante Natal Care
BEMONC	:	Basic Emergency Obstetric Neo-Natal Care
CBO	:	Community-Based Organization
CEMONC	:	Comprehensive Emergency Obstetric and Newborn Care services
CEO	:	Chief Executive Officer
COVID-19	:	Coronavirus Disease 2019
FGM	:	Female Genital Mutilation
FP	:	Family Planning
GBV	:	Gender Based Violence
GBV OSC	:	GBV One-Stop Center
HIV	:	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
ICT	:	Information and Communications Technology
IDP	:	Internally Displaced Persons
IEC	:	Information, Education, and Communication
KLP	:	Key Local Partner
LED	:	Livelihoods and Economic Development
MCH	:	Maternal Child Health
MHM	:	Menstruation Hygiene Management
MMR	:	Maternal Mortality Rate
MOWDAFA	:	Ministry of Women Development and Family Affairs
NGO	:	Non-Governmental Organization
OPD	:	Outpatient Department
PNC	:	Postnatal Care
PYAN	:	Puntland Youth Associations Network
Q2	:	Quarter two
Q4	:	Quarter 4

SC	:	Save the Children
SDG	:	Sustainable Development Goal
SGBV	:	Sexual Gender Based Violence
SRH	:	Sexual and Reproductive Health
SRHR	:	Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights
STI	:	Sexually Transmitted Infection
UN	:	United Nations
UNESCO	:	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNFPA	:	United Nations Fund for Population
UTI	:	Urinary Tract Infections
WHO	:	World Health Organization
Y-PEER	:	Youth Peer Education Network



Foreword

In the pages that follow, we invite you to explore the impact and journey of Youth Peer Education Network (Y-PEER Somalia) throughout the past year. This annual report serves as a testament to the collective efforts and unwavering support that have fueled our initiatives.

At the forefront of our appreciation is the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), a longstanding partner whose commitment has been pivotal in our mission. Their support, extending beyond financial contributions to the very core of our operations, has empowered us to extend essential services to communities in need.

The report encapsulates our triumphs, challenges, and the resilience that defines Y-PEER. From supporting vital health facilities in the Sool region to navigating funding constraints, we have persisted, driven by the belief that positive change is achievable through collaborative action. As we express our deepest gratitude to UNFPA and our dedicated partners, we also acknowledge the individuals and communities we serve. Their stories, like that of a young mother, Laki and her bouncing new baby Abdullahi, born through timely C-Section, remind us of the transformative power of our collective endeavors.

In the face of uncertainties, Y-PEER remains committed to our mission, and we eagerly anticipate the revitalization of partnerships and the continuation of impactful programs in the coming year.

Thank you for being an integral part of our journey.

Abdikadir Dooy

Country Director

Youth Peer Education Network (Y-PEER)

Executive Summary

Youth Peer Education Network (Y-PEER) successfully implemented diverse projects during the year 2023, addressing critical issues affecting youth in Somalia . The projects, demonstrate a commitment to civic engagement, health education, and the eradication of harmful practices such as early marriage and Female Genital Mutilation (FGM). Below is a snapshot summary of each set of activities:

Dalbile Youth Initiative: A multifaceted program, it involved a three-week radio campaign, engaging youth in Garowe and Gardo to foster civic engagement and social accountability. The campaign, reaching 16,310 beneficiaries. Other components were bootcamp training, social enterprise investment, Puntland job fair, life skill training, future ready skills training and supporting civic engagement

The other project was scaling Up School Health Education on Early Marriage Awareness. Y-PEER undertook a theater performance awareness campaign in secondary schools to address the critical issue of early marriage. The campaign, executed by the Junior Maslaxo team, reached 5,670 beneficiaries, educating students about the consequences of child marriage.

FGM Movement : A two-day consultation workshop brought together 25 participants to formulate a strategic movement against FGM, engaging diverse stakeholders. The initiative aimed to enhance community understanding of FGM, particularly within religious clerics. Achievements include increased community understanding of the health implications of harmful practices and a successful social media campaign with over 850,000 views.

Y-PEER has operated Youth Centres in various parts of the country. Literacy, numeracy and computer skills training are offered during morning and afternoon shifts. The centre has a youth friendly clinic which offers health services including GBV counselling.

The Basic Emergency Obstetric and Newborn Care (BEmONC) in Sool region

Violent clashes in Laas Anood, Sool, and Ayn regions in late 2022 displaced over 200,000 people, with 37,206 families seeking refuge in nearby areas. In response, Y-PEER and UNFPA distributed dignity kits to 4,000 women and girls, providing sanitary pads in March 2023. After a brief calm, Y-PEER conducted a needs assessment in March and, with a grant in April, implemented a successful 3-month emergency health care program. This initiative supported health facilities including Buhoodle Hospital, established 2 mobile health teams, and a GBV one-stop center, achieving positive outcomes and surpassing key performance indicators. Inability to secure an extension of funding from UNFPA sadly put a sudden halt to the vital services.

1.0. INTRODUCTION

1. Organizational Overview

The Somalia Youth Peer Education Network (Y-PEER Somalia), established in September 2009, is a community-based youth initiative that operates under the motto 'Tilmaame' (a guiding light). As a non-profit, non-political organization and a member of the Global Youth Peer Education Network, Y-PEER focuses on promoting healthy lifestyles among young people through a peer-to-peer approach. This includes empowering youth to make responsible decisions regarding their sexual reproductive health (SRH) and career choices.

The strategy employed by Y-PEER involves empowering youth to take charge of their own destiny, providing several benefits. Firstly, ownership of the process motivates youth to actively participate in project design, implementation, and review. Secondly, by making youth change agents, the organization addresses issues such as female genital mutilation (FGM) and piracy, encouraging reflection and questioning of cultural and social dynamics.

This approach contributes to changing attitudes and standing against long-held beliefs, fostering a future generation with universal values of mutual respect, democratic decision-making, and engagement in productive pursuits. The network's overarching goal is to develop the knowledge, attitudes, beliefs, and skills of young people, empowering them to protect their health, environment, and livelihoods. Programs include reproductive health, sustainable livelihood, and environmental protection activities, aligning with national and international human rights frameworks.

Notably, Y-PEER emphasizes the crucial role of youth in leadership, advocating for their participation in governance structures to ensure their integral role in decision-making processes for the common good

2. Name, mission, vision, and values

Vision: Y-PEER aspires to establish a vibrant youth network that is instrumental in mobilizing young individuals to create a community free from health and environmental catastrophes, discrimination, and violence. The ultimate goal is to cultivate an environment conducive to livelihood development and sustainable socioeconomics.

Mission: Y-PEER's mission is to mobilize youth groups, enhancing their employability skills, education, and knowledge about livelihood, environmental protection, sexual and

reproductive health, and gender. The organization is dedicated to increasing youth participation in the decision-making processes of the country.

Key Objectives:

- 1) Identify and mobilize diverse youth associations, groups, and institutions for activities related to development, health, peace-building, and human rights.
- 2) Facilitate, support, and educate youth about developmental work in their regions to strengthen ownership and promote sustainability.
- 3) Strengthen the role and participation of youth as agents of peace by engaging with influencers, including religious clerics, clan leaders, elders, and women.
- 4) Bring together various stakeholders, including the government, private sector, civil society organizations (CSOs), and the community, to develop a cohesive plan for youth involvement and empowerment in development initiatives such as water, sanitation, hygiene (WASH) , sustainable environment use, family and community health, education, and employable skills training.
- 5) Attain and maintain the status of being pace setters in mitigating, reducing, and settling conflicts in risk-prone areas in Somalia .
- 6) Raise awareness among different community members about the benefits of peace through traditional methods (circus, poems, folklore) and conventional approaches like dialogue, in collaboration with relevant organizations.
- 7) Empower youth and women through education and life skills training to build their leadership capacity.
- 8) Assess and enhance the capacity of different youth-focused organizations in all regions of Somalia in collaboration with relevant institutions.

Key staff and board leadership

No	Name	Title
1	<i>Abdikadir Hassan Dooy</i>	<i>Country Director</i>
2	<i>Osman Jama</i>	<i>Operation and Administration Manager</i>
3	<i>Mohamed Haret</i>	<i>Puntland Area Executive Director</i>
4	<i>Anisa Mohamoud</i>	<i>Program Manager</i>
5	<i>Safia Osman</i>	<i>Health project Coordinator</i>
6	<i>Fardusa Jama</i>	<i>Community Mobilizer</i>
7	<i>Farhia Faysal</i>	<i>Youth Clinic Nurse</i>
8	<i>Fatima Mohamed Salad</i>	<i>Youth Clinic Nurse</i>
9	<i>Nimco Faraha Mohamed</i>	<i>GBV Counselor</i>
10	<i>Qamar Mursal Ali</i>	<i>Human Resource officer</i>
11	<i>Farhia Xarir Gaas</i>	<i>Finance officer</i>
12	<i>Hodan Isse</i>	<i>Media & communication officer</i>
13	<i>Hudaifa Islaan</i>	<i>Field coordinator</i>
14	<i>Nasriin A. Mohamed</i>	<i>M&E Officer</i>
15	<i>Abdimalik Ahmed</i>	<i>Trainer</i>
16	<i>Maryan Hassan Dooy</i>	<i>Library officer</i>
17	<i>Kasim Rashid Sajjabi</i>	<i>Technical Advisor</i>
18	<i>Abdimalik Mohamed Adan</i>	<i>English Instructor</i>
19	<i>Abdisalam Yusuf Mohamed</i>	<i>Math Instructor</i>
20	<i>Jamaal Abdulahi Farah</i>	<i>Finance Assistant</i>
21	<i>Mohamed Ali Abdul</i>	<i>Procurement Officer</i>
22	<i>Mohamed Adan Yusuf</i>	<i>Volunteer</i>
23	<i>Khadija Farah Hassan</i>	<i>Volunteer</i>
24	<i>Mohamoud Abdrashid Elmi</i>	<i>ICT Instructor</i>

2.0. ACHIEVEMENTS AND MILESTONES

2.1. Dalbile Youth Initiative

Youth Peer , in collaboration with the Dalbile Youth initiative runs a Youth Finance start up through accelerator programmes and monitor progress through follow up

2.1.1. Dalbile Boot camp training and grants award



Photo: Bootcamp trainees and aspiring entrepreneurs taken through business planning

Y-PEER SOMALIA granted start-up costs to support 46 innovative business ideas in Bossaso, Gardo, and Eyl districts in Puntland, providing each venture with \$2,000 USD. Selection criteria for these young entrepreneurs were based on their merits and the solutions they proposed, with a specific focus on sectors such as health, organic food, fashion design, fishery, ICT, and the services industry. Following the Dalbile Bootcamp training held in Bossaso, Eyl, and Gardo from June 22nd to 26th, 2023, YPEER successfully concluded a three-month incubation training for 360 young entrepreneurs (184 female and 176 male). From September 5th to October 5th, 2023, mentoring and coaching training were provided, aiming to tap into their ideas through mentorships, business development, life skills coaching, and financial literacy.

The incubation program emphasized the following aspects over the three-month training period:

- 1) Crafting strong business ideas rooted in customer development to address real market needs.

- 2) Developing value propositions and completing the Business Model Canvas (BMC) to guide business planning.
- 3) Addressing technical aspects and visibility of business ideas, including operations, marketing, and branding.

The cohorts were chosen based on merit and the viability of their proposed solutions. Out of over 100 prospective applications received during the call for submissions, 46 groups were selected, considering gender representation, disability, and the innovativeness of their solutions. Before the final part of the training, a critical topic for all startups, financials, was covered. This included discussing sources of finances, distinguishing between good and bad loans, bookkeeping, and calculating profits/losses.

In the culmination of the training on November 6th, 2023, all entrepreneurs pitched their ideas in front of expert judges and representatives from the Ministry of Youth and Sports, UNFPA, and Y-PEER PL. Judges assessed presentations based on problem clarity, the effectiveness of solutions, team collaboration, presentation quality, and the potential for investment. This rigorous evaluation process aimed to identify and support promising business ventures poised for success in their respective markets.



2.1.2. Social Enterprise Investment and Youth Grants

Y-PEER assessed viable youth enterprises for training and support. The trainees, representing various sectors, developed action plans during the training, preparing to turn their business dreams into reality. On October 12, 2023, all entrepreneurs presented their ideas in front of expert judges and representatives from the Ministry of Youth and Sports, UNFPA, and Y-PEER PL. Judges evaluated the pitches based on problem clarity, solution effectiveness, team collaboration, achievability of goals, presentation quality, and the potential for investment.

Following a highly competitive process, Y-PEER allocated \$10,000 USD to each of two social enterprises: Somali Foto Fest and Horn Development Agency (HORNDA). Somali Foto Fest, a prominent youth firm, is gaining recognition for its digital storytelling training initiatives. Recently, it successfully conducted a four-week Photography and Video Editing Training in Garowe for 25 trainees. Similarly, HornDA, a regional consulting firm, focuses on empowering women through independent income generation and promoting peace through livelihood development. HornDA enhanced services at the Cagaran Galkaio youth skills center and received youth grants for micro-enterprises.



The grants aim to support youth-led organizations, enhance internal organizational capacity, and amplify their voices in addressing community issues.

The other youth entity which received a mini-grant from Y-PEER was Foto Fest.



The Photography and Video Editing Training by Somali Foto Fest in Garowe, part of the Dalbile youth initiative, commenced in November 2023. Selection for the grants was based on merit, with a focus on solutions related to health, organic food, fashion design, fishery, ICT, and the services industry. Out of over 10 applications received during the call for submissions, only two social enterprises were chosen, considering their representation, inclusivity, and the viability of their proposed solutions.

This initiative not only supports youth-led enterprises but also serves as a major empowerment tool for the youth, fostering innovation and sustainable development in diverse fields.

2.1.3. Mentoring and coaching program

From September 5th to October 5th, 2023, Y-PEER, in collaboration with UNFPA Somalia under the Dalbile Youth Initiative, conducted mentorship sessions for previously trained young entrepreneurs in Bosaso, Qardho, and Eyl districts. The goal of the mentorship program was to address the lack of business expertise on the spot and provide focused business ideas and consultations. Nearly 400 beneficiaries, both directly and indirectly, benefited from the training, targeting Somali youth aged 15 to 30 in Bari, Karkaar, and Eyl Districts, with each location providing mentoring and coaching for 120 youth. The topics were as outlined below:

Topic	Content
Mentoring and coaching Training	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Introduction to entrepreneurship. 2. Entrepreneurship theories. 3. Business skills and competencies for successful enterprise. 4. Business idea generation. 5. Business idea screening and selection. 6. Business Plan Development. 7. Business start-up process.

Over the course of five days, Y-PEER organized mentoring and coaching training in Bosaso, Eyl, and Gardo, attended by 287 participants (184 females and 103 males) from university students, youth organizations, vulnerable societies, and women networks. The comprehensive program included a peer debate on financial education and literacy, emphasizing the importance of equipping students with financial literacy skills before they enter secondary school and face employment issues.



Facilitators delved into the concept of business models, explaining its origin and providing a simplified definition along with other key topics related to financial literacy. They emphasized that entrepreneurship involves understanding and effectively using various marketing skills, including personal financial management, budgeting, and investing. The trainers highlighted that business initiatives form the foundation of one's relationship with money and underscored the lifelong journey of learning in financial matters.

To help participants grasp the concept of business ideation, the trainers clarified that finance involves the management of money, encompassing activities such as savings, investing, borrowing, lending, budgeting, and forecasting. Finance was categorized into

personal finance, corporate finance, and public finance, each with specific activities related to individuals, businesses, and government, respectively.

Objectives of the training included:

- 1) Fundamental Entrepreneurship Skills and Business Management: Equipping participants with essential entrepreneurship skills.
- 2) Innovative Project Development: Fostering creativity for addressing regional challenges.
- 3) Comprehensive Business Plan Preparation: Instilling structured and strategic business development approaches.
- 4) Positive Attitudes towards Self-Employment: Encouraging entrepreneurial independence.
- 5) Resource Utilization and Engagement: Developing practical application skills.
- 6) Project and Intellectual Property Management: Providing skills in effective project and intellectual asset management.

The highly participatory and experiential training covered various sessions, including Introduction to Entrepreneurship, Entrepreneurship Theories, Business Skills, Business Idea Generation, Business Plan Development, and the Business Start-Up Process. Daily reactions and end-of-course evaluations resulted in an impressive overall rating of 90%. A WhatsApp group facilitated communication, and the digital platform demonstrated forward-thinking communication strategies.

Outcomes

The outcomes of the mentorship and coaching training conducted by Y-PEER in collaboration with UNFPA Somalia under the Dalbile Youth Initiative from September 5th to October 5th, 2023, are noteworthy:

1. Enhanced Entrepreneurial Skills: Participants gained essential entrepreneurship skills, enabling them to navigate the complexities of starting and managing businesses effectively.
2. Fostered Creativity: The training encouraged innovative project development, empowering participants to think creatively and address regional challenges with novel solutions.
3. Strategic Business Development: Through comprehensive business plan preparation, participants acquired structured and strategic approaches to developing and managing their businesses.
4. Encouraged Entrepreneurial Independence: The program instilled positive attitudes toward self-employment, motivating participants to embrace entrepreneurial independence and pursue their business endeavors.
5. Practical Application Skills: Participants developed skills for resource utilization and engagement, ensuring they could practically apply their knowledge and expertise in real-world scenarios.

6. **Effective Project and Intellectual Asset Management:** The training equipped participants with skills in managing projects and intellectual assets effectively, contributing to their overall understanding of business operations.
7. **Highly Participatory and Experiential Learning:** The sessions were designed to bridge theoretical knowledge with practical skills, fostering a highly participatory and experiential learning environment.
8. **Positive Overall Evaluation:** Daily reactions and end-of-course evaluations resulted in an impressive overall rating of 90%, indicating high participant satisfaction with the training.
9. **Forward-Thinking Communication Strategies:** The establishment of a WhatsApp group facilitated ongoing communication, and the use of a digital platform showcased forward-thinking communication strategies, enhancing the overall training experience.

2.1.4. Puntland Job Fair

Y-PEER, in collaboration with the Ministry of Youth and Labor, Youth Economic Empowerment Partners, and Universities and Private Sector, co-organized the 5th annual job fair in Garowe, Puntland, Somalia . This event, held on November 22-23, 2023, aimed to address employment challenges and promote entrepreneurship in the region.

The job fair, the largest of its kind in Somalia , provided a platform for job seekers to explore current employment opportunities. It allowed participants to gain insights into recruitment cycles for various industries, learn about qualifications required for common positions, and connect with education and training institutions to plan their career paths.

In total, 60 regional exhibitors from across Puntland participated, fostering meaningful networking between employers and youth. Major local companies, such as Dahabshil Bank International, Golis Telecom, Somtel, and others, set up booths to connect with potential candidates. The fair featured 85 job postings from 23 different companies, and each employer had a booth to receive applications from potential candidates.

The event attracted 950 participants, mainly unemployed university graduates, who utilized the opportunity to submit their CVs to potential employers. Puntland President Dr. Said Abdullahi Deni officially opened the job fair and expressed gratitude to the organizers and local companies for providing opportunities to the youth. He affirmed the government's commitment to supporting youth employment in upcoming elections and various government sectors.

Goals, Objectives, and Outcomes of Puntland Job Fair:

Goals:

1. Facilitate hiring needs for local companies and employment needs for local job seekers.
2. Bring together employers and job seekers.
3. Facilitate hiring for accelerated private sector growth and achieve 150 youth placements.
4. Provide a recruiting venue to help employers tap nationwide talent amid skills mismatches.
5. Promote sustainable and equitable economic development.
6. Stimulate the entrepreneurship ecosystem with training and access to startup capital.
7. Enhance the inclusion of women, disabled, and other vulnerable persons in the workforce.



Objectives:

1. Empower young people to voice their concerns to duty bearers.
2. Decrease youth unemployment by creating 150 opportunities.
3. Improve employer perception and satisfaction with nationally available fresh graduates.

4. Provide a space for young people and decision-makers to discuss solutions to youth unemployment.

Outcomes:

1. Created links between job seekers and employers.
2. Provided a platform for a variety of options for both sides to find the best candidates.
3. Increased motivation among youth to work hard for employment in private and public sectors.
4. Mentored youth in job creation, mindset, and acquiring hard skills.
5. Received support from international organizations for youth advocacy in job placement and creation.
6. Government recognition that addressing unemployment requires building Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) centers to empower the youth market with skills.

2.1.5. Life Skills Training

Under the auspices of UNFPA support, Y-PEER initiated a comprehensive six-month life skills program operating through four youth-friendly centers: Tilmaame iHub in Garowe, Dandor Youth Center in Bossaso, Dhahar Youth Center in Buhoodle, and Hage Youth Center in Bosaso. These centers, overseen by Y-PEER, cater to the youth by offering diverse skill sets such as literacy and numeracy courses, ICT training, cooking, tailoring, and beauty salon skills. Conducted from May 15th to October 5th, 2023, the training was aimed at fostering mentorship and coaching for young men and women across Bosaso, Qardho, and Eyl Districts.

The program encompasses two main components. Firstly, regular classes are conducted every Wednesday at the Tilmaame Innovation Hub in Garowe. Secondly, an outreach training initiative is extended to secondary school learners and university students. The primary objective is to empower participants with knowledge and skills conducive to personal growth, heightened social responsibility, and effective leadership.

The curriculum is thoughtfully designed to impart essential knowledge and skills covering values, human rights, social responsibilities, reproductive health (including family planning and sexually transmitted infections), gender-based violence, harmful traditional practices, effective community communication, networking, leadership, and communication skills. With a successful enrollment of 400 participants, the program signifies a commitment to gender balance, inclusivity, and equal opportunities for all young individuals.

To provide a spectrum of youth-friendly services, including soft skill courses, healthcare access, capacity-building programs, a conducive work environment, and connectivity,

Tilmaame continued to offer youth-friendly clinic services, literacy classes, and gender-based violence support.

Furthermore, youth centers implemented a three-month skill training initiative targeting unskilled youth in Bosaso and Dhahar. Y-PEER remains dedicated to fostering positive and enduring impacts on the lives of young individuals, adapting strategies to navigate adversities and contribute to sustainable development.

Life and Entrepreneurship Skills Training under Dalbile Youth Initiative is a transformative socio-economic program designed to equip Somali youth with essential life and entrepreneurship skills. Focused on the Bari, Karkaar, and Nugal Regions in Puntland, the initiative targeted young individuals aged 15 to 30 years, aspiring to enhance their capabilities and open doors to new opportunities.

2.1.6. Future Ready Skills Training

PEER organized a dynamic Future-Ready Skills training workshop from October 5 to 25, 2023, targeting youth aged 18 to 30 in Qardo and Garowe districts of Somalia. The workshop successfully empowered 120 participants with future-ready skills, particularly focusing on social and interpersonal skills. Facilitated by YALI Alumni and government officials, the interactive sessions positively influenced participants' mindset towards job-seeking and leadership.



Future-ready skills are crucial for being well equipped to meet the needs of today's workplaces, involving an ongoing process of monitoring and evaluating the job market against one's skillset. This proactive career management approach ensures individuals have the knowledge, know-how, and competences required for current and future occupations. Being future-ready means actively pursuing new

expertise or qualifications to enhance skills, expand capabilities, and remain valuable in the workforce. The training emphasized learning both new and advanced hard and soft skills relevant to the learner's specific career goals.

Practical experience and optimizing work performance are essential components of upskilling. YPEER recruited a facilitator who developed comprehensive Future-Ready Skills training modules suitable for unskilled young people in higher education institutions, secondary schools, and out-of-school students, including dropouts and

those without formal education. The module covers crucial soft skills such as social and interpersonal skills, preparing young people to leverage transferable skills and perform well in various settings. The training addressed key questions, including how to brand oneself for career success, craft a personal story for career mobility, establish networking strategies for career growth within organizations and external marketplaces, and utilize technology, particularly professional platforms like LinkedIn.

This report highlights the outcomes of the Future-Ready Skills workshop for 120 participants from youth-led organizations, higher education institutions/university students, and out-of-school or dropout students in Garowe, Nugal region, and Gardo, Karkaar Region. The workshops concluded successfully, and participants received certificates of participation in the presence of UNFPA and YPEER representatives. Facilitators conducted further assessments to track participants' understanding levels.



The Programs Manger of Y-PEER, Anisa Mohamoud officiated at the closure of the program in Garowe, thanking all participants for their active engagement. In Gardo, the workshop was officially closed by the Deputy Mayor of Gardo District, who expressed gratitude to the facilitator, the Dalbile program team, YPEER, and UNFPA. The aim of the workshop was to equip participants with future-ready skills to empower them for social and employment opportunities, ultimately enhancing the productivity of both workers and enterprises.

The training program specifically focused on social skills/interpersonal skills, fundamental management, communication skills, conflict management, stress management, leadership, and career development/leveraging transferable skills.



2.1.7. Supporting Civic Engagement and accountability through Radio

Supporting Civic Engagement and accountability through Radio for youth is a project which ran from December 3rd to December 17th, 2023, targeting youth in Garowe and Gardo. It featured daily radio broadcasts aired four times a day. Data from the radio stations indicate that it reached an estimated 16,310 beneficiaries over the three-week period.

Objectives

- 1) Encourage collaborative action in both political and non-political spheres.
- 2) Address public concerns and enhance the overall quality of the community.
- 3) Promote community involvement and youth volunteerism.
- 4) Enhance social experience through formal and informal groups.
- 5) Foster sustained civic participation.

Outcomes

- 1) Increased appreciation for neighborhoods.
- 2) Health benefits through civic engagement, social accountability, and volunteerism.
- 3) Motivation for active community involvement among youth.
- 4) Recommendations for Future Initiatives:
- 5) Sustained communication through diverse platforms.
- 6) Exploration of other interactive platforms.
- 7) Tailoring messaging to resonate with youth experiences.
- 8) Forging collaborative partnerships for greater impact.

Conclusion: The radio campaign successfully sparked conversations on civic engagement and social accountability, laying the foundation for continued youth involvement and positive community transformation.

2.2. Scaling Up School Health Education on Early Marriage Awareness campaign

The Theater performance awareness campaign was conducted within secondary schools across Garowe and Gardo. It was executed by the Junior Maslaxo team from November 15th to December 19th, 2023, and had a focus on preventing child marriage and supporting girls' education.

Outcomes:

1. The campaign successfully heightened awareness about the harmful effects of child marriage within school communities.
2. School communities actively engaged in discussions about child marriage, fostering open dialogue and community involvement.
3. The campaign empowered students with knowledge and information, equipping them to make informed decisions regarding early marriage.
4. The use of workshops, discussions, and materials provided a comprehensive and multi-dimensional approach to address the issue.
5. The campaign facilitated community dialogues addressing cultural norms and misconceptions surrounding child marriage.

Recommendations for Future Plans:

1. Sustain and expand education programs to ensure a lasting impact on awareness and behavior change.
2. Involve parents in educational initiatives to create a supportive environment for addressing early marriage.
3. Provide ongoing capacity-building opportunities for educators to enhance their effectiveness in delivering the curriculum.
4. Establish peer education programs within schools, empowering students to act as advocates against early marriage.
5. Strengthen collaborations with external partners, including NGOs and community organizations, to broaden the campaign's reach and impact.
6. Implement a robust monitoring and evaluation system to track the campaign's progress, assess outcomes, and identify areas for improvement.

7. Maintain cultural sensitivity in addressing the issue, recognizing and respecting local norms and values to ensure effective communication.

In summary, the outcomes reflect the campaign's success in raising awareness and fostering community engagement. Future plans focus on building upon these achievements through sustained education, community involvement, and strategic collaborations.

2.3. FGM Movement

Amid tensions between funding agencies and parent ministries, Y-PEER initiated the FGM movement discreetly. The official launch was intentionally postponed until ample community support could be garnered. A two-day consultation workshop addressing harmful traditional practices, particularly Female Genital Mutilation (FGM), took place in Garowe district. Led by Anisa Mohamed (Program Manager) and Safia Osman (Health Project Coordinator), the workshop attracted 25 participants from diverse backgrounds.

Objectives:

1. Formulate a strategic movement against FGM.
2. Enhance community understanding of FGM.
3. Engage religious communities in the dialogue.

Achievements and Recommendations:

1. Improved community understanding of health implications related to harmful practices.
2. Successful social media campaign with over 850,000 views.
3. Sustained social media awareness.
4. Diversified Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) materials.
5. Collaborated with influencers.
6. Developed educational campaigns.
7. Facilitated community dialogues.
8. Established monitoring and evaluation mechanisms.

In summary, the discreet initiation of the FGM movement allowed for strategic planning and community engagement. Achievements include heightened awareness, successful social media outreach, and recommendations focus on sustaining efforts through diverse communication materials, collaborations, educational campaigns, and ongoing community dialogues. The establishment of monitoring and evaluation mechanisms ensures the initiative's effectiveness and impact assessment.

Outcomes of the FGM Movement:

1. The FGM movement has successfully enhanced community understanding of the health implications associated with harmful practices, contributing to a heightened awareness among the population.
2. The social media campaign, with over 850,000 views, has been a success, effectively reaching a wide audience and creating awareness about the movement and its objectives.
3. The series of trainings and the two-day consultation workshop in Garowe district attracted 25 participants from diverse backgrounds, fostering engagement and knowledge-sharing.

Future Plans for the FGM Movement:

1. Continue and expand the social media awareness campaign to maintain momentum and reach a broader audience.
2. Develop a variety of Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) materials to cater to different audiences and enhance the effectiveness of the movement's message.
3. Strengthen collaborations with influencers to leverage their reach and influence in spreading the movement's message.
4. Implement targeted educational campaigns to disseminate information about FGM, its consequences, and the importance of eradicating the practice.
5. Facilitate continuous community dialogues to foster open discussions, address concerns, and ensure sustained engagement with the community.
6. Establish and implement robust monitoring and evaluation mechanisms to assess the movement's impact, identify areas for improvement, and track progress towards the elimination of FGM.
7. Work towards advocating for policy change and institutionalizing efforts to eradicate FGM, building on the momentum generated by the successful passage of the FGM bill by the cabinet.
8. Extend the movement's activities to reach communities beyond the current focus, ensuring a more widespread impact on the region.

The FGM movement, with its strategic planning, is expected to catalyze progress in eradicating FGM through sustained awareness, education, community engagement, and advocacy efforts.

2.4. Inter-Agency Sub-Cluster - FGM Task Force Coordination

In partnership with the Ministry of Women and Development Affairs (MOWDAFA), Y-PEER has actively taken the lead in co-chairing the Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) task force, a monthly initiative operating within the Gender-Based Violence (GBV) working group and protection cluster. This collaborative endeavor exemplifies Y-PEER's dedication and effective coordination as it spearheads the FGM task force in Puntland.

Over the course of this reporting period, Y-PEER has organized and facilitated three FGM task force meetings, serving as a crucial platform for in-depth discussions surrounding FGM issues in Puntland. The task force has also addressed reported cases of sexual assaults, fostering an open dialogue among its members. With active participation from all task force members and support from MOWDAFA, significant milestones have been accomplished.

A notable achievement during this period was the successful passage of the FGM bill by the cabinet. The bill currently awaits approval from the parliament, a pivotal step in institutionalizing efforts to eradicate FGM in Puntland. The task force played a pivotal role in advocating for this legislation and continues to diligently monitor progress towards its final approval. The primary objective of the task force is to eliminate FGM in Puntland, and the concrete results achieved thus far distinguish Puntland from the rest of the country. Y-PEER remains steadfast in its commitment, tirelessly working towards even greater accomplishments in the ongoing battle against FGM.

The monthly task force meetings serve as a dynamic platform for collaboration, information sharing, and strategic planning, ensuring a comprehensive and sustained effort in the pursuit of a region free from the harmful practice of FGM.

The success achieved to date reflects the collective commitment and coordinated actions of Y-PEER, MOWDAFA, and all task force members, who continue to play a vital role in driving positive change and safeguarding the rights and well-being of women and girls in Puntland.

The collaborative efforts of Y-PEER and MOWDAFA in co-chairing the FGM Task Force have yielded significant results. Three productive meetings during this reporting period provided a platform for extensive discussions on FGM in Puntland. Addressing reported sexual assaults and achieving notable milestones, including the cabinet's approval of the FGM bill, exemplify the impact of dedicated coordination.

The task force's advocacy role and ongoing monitoring of the bill's progress signify concrete steps toward eradicating FGM in Puntland. Y-PEER's steadfast commitment distinguishes Puntland's achievements in combating this harmful practice.

Future Plans:

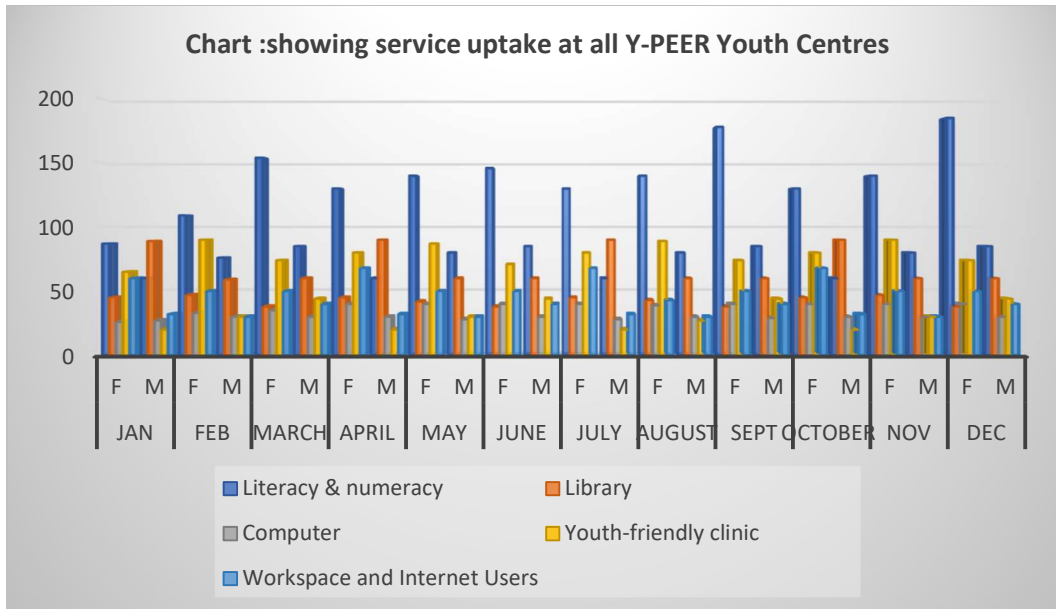
Looking ahead, Y-PEER and MOWDAFA plan to:

1. Focus on securing parliamentary approval for the FGM bill, marking a crucial step in institutionalizing efforts to eliminate FGM in Puntland.
2. Continue playing a pivotal role in advocating for legislative measures and policies to eradicate FGM, ensuring sustained efforts toward this goal.
3. Strengthen community engagement through awareness campaigns, education, and open dialogue to further eliminate cultural acceptance of FGM.
4. Enhance the capacities of stakeholders, including task force members, by providing training and resources to effectively address FGM-related issues.
5. Foster collaborations with governmental and non-governmental entities, amplifying collective efforts to create a region free from the harmful practice of FGM.
6. Establish robust monitoring and evaluation mechanisms to assess the impact of interventions, adjust strategies, and track progress towards the elimination of FGM.

It is therefore inspiring to observe that the successful outcomes achieved to date serve as a foundation for ambitious future plans aimed at achieving lasting change in the fight against FGM in Puntland. The dedication and collaborative spirit of Y-PEER, MOWDAFA, and task force members remain pivotal in driving positive transformations and safeguarding the rights of women and girls in the region

2.5. Youth Centre youth-friendly service provision

Over the reporting period, Y-PEER provided youth friendly services to female and male youth at all the youth centres. Here below is a chart showing a breakdown of the combined service uptake at all the youth centres.



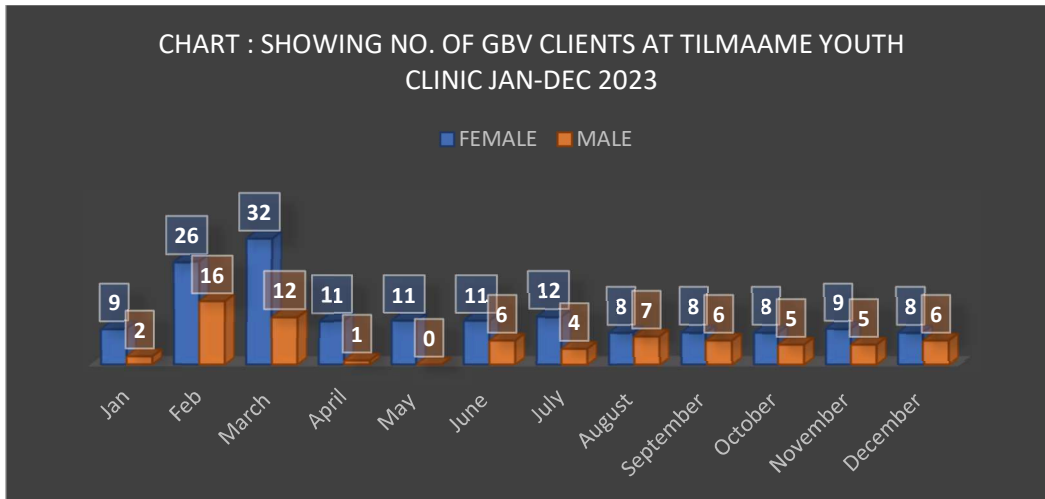
Details of each youth centre are presented as below:

Tilmaame Innovation Hub

Tilmaame continued to attract considerable numbers of youth with a much higher enrollment of female youth.

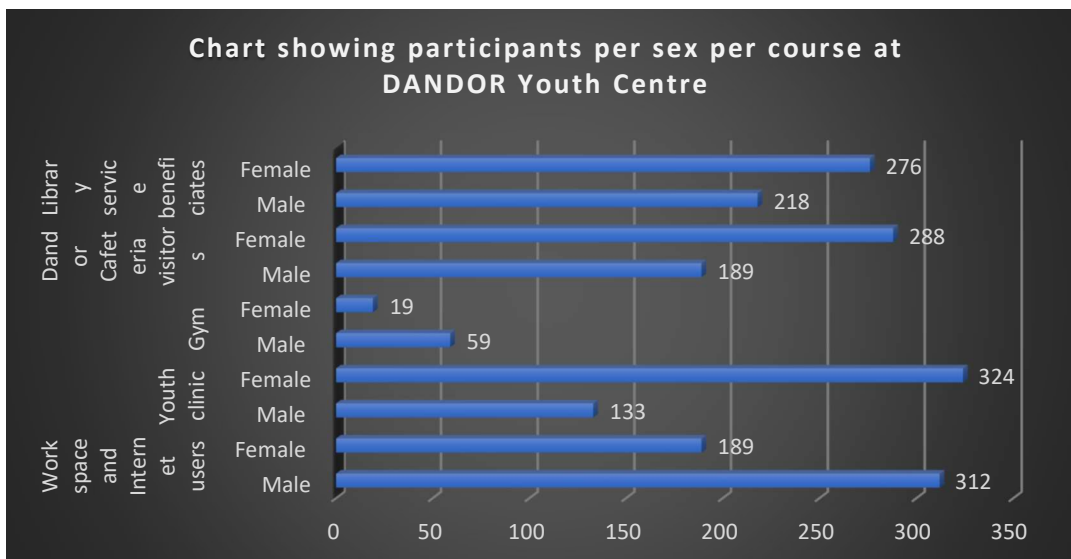
GBV service delivery at Tilmaame youth clinic over the reporting period

The youth Centres and clinics routinely attend to youth who are victims of GBV. The highest number of clients are handled at Tilmaame innovation Hub clinic. Over 2023, a total of 642 youth reported to the various youth centres after experiencing GBV in at home or school. The table below shows clientele at Tilmaame Innovation Hub youth centre in Garowe.



Here, a total of 223 youth (153 female and 70 males) reported for GBV support over the 12-month period. Adolescent girls and young women received dignity kits through Tilmaame youth clinic center. In addition, they were made aware of the need for FGM elimination and consequences of early marriage. Affected individuals were counselled. The male youth were equally trained in preventing and reporting GBV. Data from other centres is still being computed.

DANDOOR



According to the records, DANDOOR youth center recorded a total of 2007 client visits throughout the period spanning January to December 2023. Within this client base, 1096

visits were attributed to female youth, while 911 visits were accounted for by male youth. A detailed breakdown of these visits reveals that 501 individuals utilized the Internet and workspace facilities, comprising 312 male and 189 female youth. Clinic visits numbered 457, with 133 male and 324 female youth seeking services. Additionally, there were 78 gym visits, with 59 male and 19 female youth participating. The cafeteria saw 477 visits, split between 189 male and 288 female youth, and the library services recorded 494 uptakes, with 218 male and 276 female youth utilizing them.

An analysis of the data indicates a noticeable pattern reflecting societal gender norms. Male youth predominantly engaged in activities such as Internet and workspace use and gym visits, which are typically associated with traditional male gender roles. Conversely, female youth were more inclined towards clinic services and library usage, possibly influenced by societal expectations associated with their gender roles.

2.6. The Basic Emergency Obstetric and Newborn Care (BEmONC) in Sool region

Following the violent clashes which erupted in Laas Anood, Sool, and Ayn regions in late 2022, an increasing number of people were displaced. According to Sool and Ayn Protection and CCCM risk assessment on 2-7 May 2023, over 500,000 people were affected while 200,000 displaced with the majority losing their livelihoods entirely. 37,206 families were displaced to surrounding areas and neighboring cities and districts, including Garowe, Buhoodle, Bosaso, Galkayo, Qardho, Hudun, Taleh, Kalabeydh and Bo'ame. It was reported that 1,596 persons were injured, including children, women, and the elderly, while 334 were killed.

Authorities in Puntland and Sool, Sanag and Ayn (SSA) called for assistance to be provided to those affected and humanitarian actors immediately began working closely with government officials to assist displaced people. Areas which received a steady influx of IDPs include: Taleex, Boocame, Xudun, Kalabeyr, Widhwidh and Buuhoodle. It was reported that more than 500 people died and over 1000 were injured in the in the first few months of the conflict. The actual casualties of the fighting, and the impact on the civilian population, however, cannot be confirmed so far. The fighting continued over 3 months with heavy artillery shelling on the city of Laas Anood causing serious humanitarian loss and property damage. By April, there were no ongoing negotiations or mediations between the two parties. The humanitarian situation continued to escalate, with the number of displaced people increasing rapidly.

Despite ceasefire declarations from Somaliland, the forces continued shelling key infrastructure, including hospitals, electricity, and water supply. Y-PEER with the support of UNFPA distributed dignity kits to people affected by the Laas Anood conflict. During the two weeks' distribution which took place between 1st -14th March 2023, the team reached 4000 women and girls, distributing 5000 Sanitary pads within Buurawadal, Boocame, Falidhyaale and Kalabayr city. Laas Anood fighting resumed after three weeks

of precarious calm. Between March 22-26th Y-PEER conducted an in depth needs assessment of the project sites. Two teams one in Sool and the other in Ayn regions, assessed health facilities located in Taleeh, Awrbogays, Widh-Widh and Buhoodle districts.

In April, UNFPA availed Y-PEER a grant to implement a 3-month emergency health care program in the area. The intervention involved supporting four fixed BEMONC health facilities, two mobile teams which provided integrated SRH and GBV services in villages that did not have access to health facilities in their proximity. All the facilities received essential supplies as well as incentives for staff. Additionally, Y-PEER facilitated one GBV one-stop center (GBV OSC) located in Widh-Widh district, within Ayn region. Both the mobile health teams and MCH facilities and referral hospital hospitals provided SRH information and clinic services. Positive outcomes have since been registered from the project, with the majority of key performance indicators surpassing targets

With UNFPA funding, Y-PEER provided support to health facilities, namely: Buhoodle Hospital, Faleedhayle MCH Centre, and Widh-Widh GBV OSC, offering critical services to those affected by the challenges in the Sool region. Sadly, due to UNFPA's inability to fund an extension of the BEMONC project, services were either terminated or continue to run at very minimal scales with basic support from government.

Details on the maternal and newborn health project.



Health worker treats a woman of injuries from the Laascaanood conflict

Falydaalye MCH

This Y-PEER managed MCH facility located in Sool region has been supported by UNFPA since January 2023. When conflict arose in Laascaanood necessitating the support of BEMONC, the facility equally received support for operations and sustenance.

Table showing combined performance in Q1-Q2

Health Facility	Combined number of beneficiaries per service over Qtr 1 and Qtr 2							Total Service Uptake
	SRH Clinic & Info Services	Family Planning Services	Deliveries	ANC1-ANC4	PNC1-PNC4	Community Awareness	Persons with Disabilities Reached	
Falidhyaale MCH Centre	1440	3424	139	1284	975	1840	140	9242
Buhoodle Hospital	47543	9963	701	23304	3206	47543	Not captured	85852
Consolidated Total	48983	13387	840	24588	4181	49383	140	95094



Photo: Health worker giving SRH information talk to affected women at Faadyaale MCH centre

Outcomes and future plans of the BEMONC initiative

Outcomes

There are various testimonies from the District health focal person, community leaders and beneficiaries that the BEMONC initiative enhanced the provision of emergency obstetric and newborn care, leading to better outcomes for both mothers and newborns. By strengthening emergency care facilities, the initiative contributed to a reduction in maternal and neonatal mortality rates, addressing critical health needs during childbirth. The 3 months emergency support by Y-PEER with UNFPA support also improved the overall capacities of health facilities involved, ensuring they are better equipped to handle emergencies related to childbirth.

The initiative also promoted community awareness about maternal and newborn health, increasing community engagement and encouraging timely access to healthcare services. Following facilitation of workers in the health facilities, this ensured the availability and effective use of essential medical supplies in BEMONC facilities, such as medications and equipment, which also positively impacted emergency care provision.

Future Plans:

The most critical future plan will be to explore the sustainability of the BEMONC initiative and exploring opportunities for its expansion to reach more communities and health facilities.

One of the areas which require priority attention is ongoing training programs and capacity-building efforts will be crucial to maintaining a skilled healthcare workforce capable of providing quality emergency obstetric and newborn care.

Another important plan is for stakeholders including Y-PEER to engage communities in maternal and newborn health, promoting education and awareness to encourage healthy practices and timely healthcare-seeking behavior. This means continued collaboration with governmental health agencies, non-governmental organizations, and international partners will be essential for sustained success and the potential expansion of the initiative.

The success and sustainability of the BEMONC initiative will depend on a holistic and collaborative approach, addressing both immediate needs and long-term sustainability in maternal and newborn healthcare.

Dignity kit distribution

This was done in Buurawadal, Boocame, Kalabayr and Falidhyaale after consultation with the Ministry of Humanitarian affairs and Disaster Management and Inter Agency Committee to address the need for dignity kits for vulnerable women, also providing menstrual hygiene information. To maximize the reach the team procured 5000 dignity kits which were accordingly distributed. In addition, 3000 Sanitary kits were also distributed to schoolgirls in 4 cities as part of the sexual and reproductive health (SRH)

program. Kit distribution was planned in consultation with clusters or alternative Humanitarian coordination mechanisms as well as other stakeholders, particularly women and girls from the affected Laas Anood population. This was aimed at addressing specific needs appropriate to a situation. Kit distribution provides an important opportunity to provide information on other available health and protection issues.

The process of distribution begins with Inter Agency assessment and consultation of Puntland Ministry of Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs and Disaster Management to give guidance on the distribution, followed by the distribution itself, and then monitoring by UNFPA. This process was followed to the letter.

2.7. Institutional and Staff capacity Building

Y-PEER engaged an expatriate project planning, research and GESI inclusion specialist. With more than 30 years' experience in development and humanitarian programming, Kasim Sajjabi commenced work in May. He was asked with and supported the organization by finalizing the facilitation of the 3-year strategic plan. He went on to compile several activity and progress reports. The technical adviser designed and delivered several trainings for capacity building of staff. These include: report writing, team effectiveness and prevention of sexual exploitation, abuse and harassment (PSEAH). He led on the participatory formulation of 14 new policies which include: procurement, code of conduct, M & E framework, PSEA, gender, child protection, disability, communication, travel, transport, distribution policies and sustainability plan.

He spent lengthy periods of time coaching each staff individually in project management practices including balancing SOW, time and budget, report making as a hallmark of accountability.

Key outcomes

Outcomes:

Finalized 3-year strategic plan: The engagement with Kasim Sajjabi likely resulted in the successful completion of the organization's strategic plan, providing a clear roadmap for future activities and goals.

Compiled activity and progress reports: The organization now has detailed reports on its activities and progress, which can be used for internal assessment and external reporting.

Reviewed organization's policies or developed new ones: Up to 20 key policy documents have been developed which now streamlines mode of operations in a more professional manner. This is in line with international best practices

Capacity building for staff: The training sessions designed and delivered by the technical adviser have likely enhanced the skills and knowledge of the organization's staff, particularly in areas such as report writing, team effectiveness, and prevention of sexual exploitation, abuse, and harassment. All 20 key policy documents have been developed which guides the future operations in a more professional manner. This is in line with international best practices

Future Plans:

Implementation of new policies: The participatory formulation of new policies signals a commitment to enhancing organizational governance and operations. The future plans involve the renewed implementation and adherence to these policies, ensuring that they are effectively integrated into the organization's processes.

Continued staff development: Given the emphasis on coaching staff in project management practices, future plans will involve ongoing training and mentorship to further improve staff capabilities in various areas like project management, accountability, and balancing scope, time, and budget.

Improved organizational effectiveness: The overall future plan will also focus on improving the organization's effectiveness, governance, and impact through the implementation of the strategic plan, policies, and ongoing staff capacity building efforts.

These outcomes and future plans indicate a strong commitment to organizational development and capacity building, with the aim of enhancing the overall impact and sustainability of the organization's work.

3.0. SUCCESS STORIES AND IMPACT

Success story 1- Saving Laki and her baby boy

Laki's inspiring story captures the resilience and impact of Y-PEER's work in conflict-prone regions, particularly in the SSA region, located about 100 kilometers from Garowe District. In the wake of renewed violence in Laas Caanood in April 2023, displacing tens of thousands of people, Laki, a 23-year-old expectant mother, found herself caught in the crossfire of conflict. Fleeing the ferocious shelling with as many as 50,000 others, predominantly women and children, Laki embarked on a harrowing journey towards safety. Unfortunately, exhaustion overcame her, and she collapsed, facing the daunting reality of separation from her spouse and the imminent arrival of her baby.

In a stroke of luck, Y-PEER, in collaboration with Awrboogays hospital and supported by UNFPA, had mobilized a swift-response mobile health team. This team reached Laki just in time, delivering her baby through a lifesaving C section at Awrboogays hospital on 18th

May 2023. In Laki's case, the timely intervention of the medical team ensured her safe delivery, sparing both her and her newborn, Abdullahi, from what could have been fatal consequences.

This success story is not only a testament to Laki's resilience but also highlights the vital role played by Y-PEER's mobile health team in collaboration with local healthcare facilities. The coordinated effort, supported by UNFPA, exemplifies the potential for positive change even in the midst of conflict. Laki's triumph over adversity stands as a beacon of hope, emphasizing the significance of timely and targeted interventions in ensuring the well-being of mothers and infants in challenging environments. Her story serves as a poignant reminder of the impact that organizations like Y-PEER can have in saving lives and providing a glimmer of hope in the face of conflict and displacement.

Success story 2- Through vocation training , the sky is the limit for Naima Mohamed

Each year, the center witnesses the graduation of over 500 male and female youth, propelling them forward on their educational and career expeditions. Y-PEER has an understanding to implement a new Digital innovation Hub for persons with Disabilities with support of UNDP Somalia .

Naima Mohamed's journey is a testament to the transformative power of education and support. At the age of 18, having left school in the 8th grade, Naima longed to resume her educational journey. In January 2022, she found her way to Tilmaame Youth Center with the intention of joining an English class.



Naima Attending English classes at Tilmaame in March 2022

Initially doubtful about the quality of education in free spaces, Naima's perception shifted as she became a part of the vibrant and empowering atmosphere of the center. Encouraged by the supportive environment, she not only pursued her English studies but also added a math course to her curriculum. Grateful for the opportunity to learn in such a positive setting, Naima had this to say, "Tilmaame has been a game-changer for me," her face glowing with pride.

Having completed six months of training in English and math, Naima, based on Tilmaame's recommendation, enrolled in a six-month first aid course at Shibish Health

Institute in Garowe. The experience not only opened her eyes but also fueled her determination to further her education. Recognizing the need for computer skills, Naima successfully passed an exam for the computer class, leading her back to Tilmaame's courses. This time, she joined with un-shakable confidence, eager to rejoin her Tilmaame family.



Naima seen attending computer class, Tilmaame in May 2023

Armed with newfound computer proficiency, Naima effortlessly completed her assignments. She then undertook a life skills course facilitated by the sexual reproductive health (SRH) team, covering essential topics such as values, human rights, communication, gender issues, and pregnancy prevention. These skills, combined with her healthcare knowledge, positioned her as a natural leader. Following leadership training and FGM mentorship, Naima dared to challenge gender norms by running for the chairperson of the students' council. Defying expectations, she competed against boys and emerged victorious, showcasing that girls can indeed be powerful leaders.

Reflecting on her journey, Naima shared, "Being part of the Tilmaame family is an amazing experience." Overcoming her fear of public speaking through life skill courses, leadership training, and one-to-one coaching, Naima has transformed into a confident and capable individual. Today, Naima continues her growth journey as an active member of Tilmaame's volunteers. Mentoring others and refining her communication skills learned from the life skill course, she remains grateful for the opportunities provided by Tilmaame, recognizing it as her solid home of support and learning.

4.0. LESSONS LEARNED

Several key lessons can be gleaned from the data presented:

The data highlights distinct preferences among male and female youth in the choice of activities at the DANDOOR youth center. Recognizing and understanding these preferences is crucial for tailoring services and programs to meet the diverse needs and interests of both genders.

The observed patterns also suggest that societal gender norms play a significant role in shaping the choices of youth at the center. Activities associated with traditional male gender roles, such as Internet and workspace use and gym visits, are more popular among male youth. Similarly, female youth are inclined towards services like clinics and libraries, aligning with societal expectations. It is also logical that the youth centers could use this data to refine and customize its offerings based on the preferences of its female and male beneficiaries/ clientele. Understanding which services are more popular among each gender allows for more targeted programming and resource allocation.

The disparities in the utilization of certain services highlight potential areas for addressing gender imbalances. Efforts can be made to encourage inclusivity and break down gender stereotypes, ensuring that all youth feel comfortable and supported in accessing a wide range of services. Finally, the data emphasizes the importance of community engagement and education initiatives. By raising awareness about the availability and benefits of various services, the youth center can potentially challenge and reshape existing gender norms, fostering a more inclusive and diverse environment.

In conclusion, the lessons learned from the various datasets from each of the projects implemented during the reporting period provide valuable insights for enhancing the effectiveness of each youth center's programs and services.

5.0. CHALLENGES AND MITIGATION

The organization faced some major challenges but mechanisms were devised to overcome them.

1. Election-related Community Violence:

There were 2 notable incidents in May and end-of-year violence in Garowe city which caused tensions, uncertainty, and disruptions in project implementation. The possible consequences include increased community unrest, safety concerns, and challenges in maintaining project momentum.

2. UNFPA Funding Halt:

The sudden stoppage of UNFPA's funding led to an immediate halt in vital projects, including BEMONC. This resulted in project delays or a complete termination which compromised healthcare services, and negative impacts on maternal and newborn health. Given the dependency on UNFPA as a long standing partner, Limited financial resources and staffing challenges hindered the smooth execution of a project to its planned full project cycle. This resulted in delays, compromises in quality, or even the inability to meet project objectives.

3. Staff Morale Loss:

The other adverse effect of funding disruptions was a dramatic decline in staff morale. This, no doubt, affected productivity, collaboration, and overall team effectiveness.

4. Shortage of Dignity Exists:

There was a shortage related to dignity, as poverty is widespread and conflict as well as natural disasters have grossly disrupted livelihoods all over Somalia . The opportunity to improve the basic human rights of vulnerable girls and women was not fully.

5. There was also ineffective communication among stakeholders, namely: Ministry leadership with external partners which caused misunderstandings, delays, and hindered the overall progress of various projects.

Strategies Employed to Overcome Challenges:

1. Establishing clear communication channels and maintaining regular updates with stakeholders and team members has helped in addressing concerns promptly. Addressing communication barriers ensures that everyone is on the same page regarding project goals and progress.
2. Addressing resource constraints is being tackled through capacity building through training programs, recruitment of technical adviser and exploring new partnerships. Strengthening the skills and knowledge base of the team will enhance their ability to tackle future challenges effectively.
3. Community Engagement and Conflict Resolution:

Y-PEER plans to work with community leaders and stakeholders to address and mitigate the impacts of election-related violence. Civic education initiatives will be implemented by Y-PEER to foster dialogue and understanding to reduce tensions.

4. Diversifying Funding Sources:

Y-PEER has embarked on the journey to seek alternative funding sources to supplement UNFPA funding. In some instances, Y-PEER will collaborate with other organizations, like Save the Children, NGOs, or local governments to secure financial support.

5. Boosting Staff Morale:

There are plans to implement strategies to boost staff morale, such as recognition programs, team building activities, and clear communication about the organization's plans and efforts to secure funding.

6. Addressing Dignity Shortages:

To tackle shortage of dignity kits, Y-PEER will continue to seek UNFPA support, identify specific areas where there is a shortage of dignity and work towards solutions. Management with the support of the technical Adviser will collaborate with local and international partners to address human rights concerns and promote dignity for all.

6.0. FUTURE INITIATIVES

Y-PEER provides SRH information and services to the marginalized groups including IDPs, adolescents and youth. While less people have access and information about family planning, we are offering information and child spacing product distribution at health posts and youth friendly centers. Similarly, Y-PEER is involved in WASH interventions, given water scarcity continues to be a life-threatening hazard to people and animals. Y-PEER plans to intensify the interventions, which are sustainable on top of the relief support. Education is another priority and we plan to sustain efforts of supporting some schools with scholastic material and renovations.

It is also critical that given the high unemployment among the young population of Somalia, Y-PEER will continue to work with Silatech (Qatar) and Save the Children, Somalia to sustain the SOYEP project. Similarly, Y-PEER will partner with Save the Children and Dalbile Youth project to maintain and intensify efforts to increase employable skills for youth.

Y-PEER is systematically building the capacity of Somali youth to engage in livelihood activities within the respective communities. Various projects are planned including a youth startup fund. This is important as youth need to be mentored and facilitated to partake in some income generation activities (IGAs). Human rights are central to Y-PEER programmes. Y-PEER will build its capacity and that of our member organizations to pursue human rights approach to programming (HRAP). Gender issues, child rights and youth rights will be integral in any programmes at Y-PEER and that of the members. This

includes inculcating fundamental principles of democratization and peace building in our work plan.

Of equal significance, Y-PEER plans to intensify the fund-raising efforts. The project planning specialist engaged in 2023, will continue to lead in identifying funding opportunities and proposal writing. The year 2024 marks a turning point for Y-PEER in terms of capacity building. The organization will maintain a lean, mean team of well-motivated, active staff who will be able to multi-task. Accountability and transparency to donors and other stakeholders will become the hallmark of the new overall approach to sustaining partner trust.

Finally, Y-Plan is happy to report the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with UNDP Somalia , to implement a new Digital innovation Hub for persons with Disabilities with support of UNDP Somalia . Faced with some technical delays, the project will be officially launched in February 2024.

7.0. CONCLUSION AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

As we wrap up the 2023 annual report, the management want to express our sincere gratitude to the UNFPA Somalia Country Office and all our dedicated implementing partners for their steadfast support. Our appreciation also extends to the governments at the Federal, State, regional, and local levels. A special acknowledgment goes to the beneficiaries, as their crucial involvement has been instrumental in the success of every intervention. Y-PEER is truly thankful for their contributions.

In no small measure, we recognize and thank the Y-PEER staff whose dedication and hard work, both in challenging and favorable circumstances, have been essential in achieving our set targets. Collectively, we have achieved significant milestones in empowering the youth and communities in Somalia . We eagerly anticipate continued collaboration and the positive impact that the upcoming year promises.

Abdikadir Hassan Dooy

Country Director,

Somali Youth Peer Education Network

Y-PEER Somalia