YECO

2025 ANNUAL REPORT



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Message from our Leadership



Dear Partners and Donors,

As we reflect on 2025, we celebrate a year of resilience, collaboration and transformative impact for Somalia's youth. This year (2025), Youth Empowering Council (YECO) Somalia reached over 850+ young people in Galmudug State, Hirshabelle State, South West State and Benadir Region of Somalia, empowering them with the skills, knowledge, and opportunities to shape their future and contribute meaningfully to their communities.

We are deeply grateful to our partners and donors, whose unwavering support has been instrumental in amplifying our impact. Collaborations with the United Nations agencies, International Organizations, Diplomatic Missions, Government institutions, and the Private Sector enabled us to reach and empower underserved young people, expand programs, establish annual networking night, foster social cohesion and sustainable development. Your trust, commitment and shared vision have been pivotal in turning our collective goals into tangible outcomes on the ground.

The achievements of 2025 remind us that youth are not just the future, they are agents of change today. Their energy, creativity, and determination continue to inspire our work, guiding YECO Somalia's mission to empower, nature and transform every young Somali's life. As we move forward into 2026, we reaffirm our commitment to fostering partnerships, strengthening local capacities and scaling programs that nurture peace, resilience and opportunities for youth across Somalia.

Together, we are building a Somalia where every young person can reach their full potential, contribute to state-building and become leaders of sustainable development.

With Gratitude and Commitment,

Mohamed Sharif,
Executive Director

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Organization Background



Vision

We're envisioned to see empowered, nurtured and transformed youth and women who actively participate in the decisions that affect their lives and are the agents of changes in their communities.

Mission

Our mission is to empower, nurture and transform youth and women to be self- reliant, independent and the agents of changes in their communities.

Year (2025) in Numbers

In 2025, YECO Somalia made significant strides in empowering youth, strengthening civil society, and promoting human rights and inclusive governance. The figures below highlight the scope and impact of our work, reflecting our commitment to youth development, gender equality, climate action, and civic engagement. Each number represents a young life empowered, a community strengthened, and a step forward towards sustainable peace and inclusive development in Somalia.



Human Rights

30 youth trained in advancing human rights

Women Protection

15 CSOs trained in women protection issues

Youth, Peace and Security

30 young people trained to participate in peace and security.

Climate Change

40 young people trained in addressing climate change in Somalia.

Stakeholder (High-level) Engagement

6 local governments engaged to support youth and women in decision-making.

Policy and Decisions Influencing

42 youth aspirants empowered on policy influence through cinema and public forums.

2025 Overall Programming



In 2025, Youth Empowering Council (YECO)'s programming focused on key thematic areas that address the most pressing challenges facing youth, women and communities in Somalia. The organization prioritized human rights education, equipping youth with the tools to advocate for inclusivity, and rights-respecting learning environment, while simultaneously strengthening civil society capacity, particularly in protecting women and promoting gender equality.

Another core focus was the Youth, Peace and Security (YPS) Agenda, empowering young people to engage meaningfully in peacebuilding, conflict resolution, and community leadership. YECO Somalia also emphasized climate change awareness and action, helping youth understand environmental challenges and promoting locally driven solutions for resilience and sustainability.

Complementing these efforts, YECO Somalia worked to enhance youth and women participation in governance and decision-making, fostering stronger connections between communities and local authorities. The organization created innovative platforms for policy influence and civic engagement, such as public forums and cinema, enabling youth to articulate their perspectives and drive social change. By centering programming around these thematic areas, YECO Somalia ensured that youth are not only supported but are active leaders in shaping a more inclusive, peaceful and sustainable Somalia.

2025 Networking Night

YECO Somalia and Nabaad co-organized a Networking Night in Mogadishu, Somalia, with support from the Strengthening Youth Voices for Peaceful Somalia project, supported by Ifa - Institut für Auslandsbeziehungen's Zivik Funding Programme, and funded by the German Federal Foreign Office (GFFO). The event brought together 2025 Youth, Peace and Security (YPS) trainees, civil society actors, peace and security experts, government officials, and youth aspirants. The primary aim was to establish lasting partnerships and a strong network among diverse stakeholders, contributing directly to efforts toward building a peaceful Somalia. By creating a space for meaningful dialogue, connection, and collaboration, the Networking Night demonstrated that when youth, experts, and officials come together around a shared vision, bottom-up peace becomes not just possible but sustainable.





Key Activities

Human Rights

In partnership with the United Nations Transitional Assistance Mission in Somalia (UNTMIS), YECO Somalia established two human rights clubs in two secondary schools in Cadaado district of Galmudug State and provided basic human rights training, covering principles such as equality, dignity, and civic responsibility, while created youth-led platforms for rights advocacy and civic dialogue within schools and the wider community.

Women Protection

To help end violence against women and girls in Galmudug State, YECO Somalia, in partnership with the United Nations Transitional Assistance Mission in Somalia (UNTMIS), trained civil society organizations across Galmudug State of Somalia. The training equipped the civil society organizations with the essential knowledge, practical skills, and critical information needed to actively contribute to prevention and response efforts —strengthening local capacity to protect the rights and dignity of women and girls



Youth, Peace and Security (YPS) Agenda

With the aim of advancing the UN Security Council's 2250 Resolution on Youth, Peace and Agenda (YPS) Agenda, with the support from Ifa - Institut für Auslandsbeziehungen's Zivik Funding Programme, and funds from the German Federal Foreign Office (G-FFO), in 2025 YECO Somalia launched Strengthening Youth Voices for Peaceful Somalia Project (PHASE I), with the aim of empowering young people to participate and influence peace and security processes, and to influence decision-making for better, prosperous and stable Somalia.

In the implementation of the project, YECO Somalia partnered with a local organization, Nabaad, dedicated to fostering sustainable peace and development. The project selected 30 young leaders from three districts in Benadir region, where the capital city is located, in Somalia, and provided a series of capacity building workshops, to equip the young aspirants with knowledge, skills and opportunities to contribute to conflict prevention, transformation and mediation efforts. Through the capacity building workshops, the participated young men and women acquired knowledge on conflict analysis, prevention and resolution, dialogue and mediation design, peace advocacy and digital storytelling, leadership and management.

Additionally, the project hosted a forums where the young people interacted with experts in the field of peace and security, learned lessons learnt and best practices for building peace from the bottom. With the aim of establishing a strong partnership, YECO Somalia and Nabaad co-hosted a networking events with civil society, researchers, policymakers, government and the private sector, where youth trainees connected with open-minded people, and collaborations fostered.

10th Anniversary: Youth, Peace and Security (YPS) Agenda

YECO Somalia, together with Nabaad and the UK Embassy in Mogadishu, commemorated the 10th anniversary of UN Security Council Resolution 2250, on Youth, Peace and Security (YPS) agenda. During the event, youth representatives joined the British Ambassador to Somalia, H.E. Charles King, in a meaningful dialogue to reflect on a decade of achievements, challenges, and the way forward.



The discussion reaffirmed that while progress has been made in elevating youth voices in peace processes, much work remains to fully institutionalize youth inclusion. The anniversary served as both a celebration of how far the YPS agenda has come and a renewed collective commitment to accelerating its implementation across Somalia.





Climate Change

Somalia faces climate change impacts for more than three decades, and tackling climate challenges demanding inclusive action. Youth Empowering Council (YECO) Somalia, in partnership with the United Nations Democracy Fund (UNDEF), launched Empowering the Next Generation to Address Climate Change in Somalia project, which aimed to empower youth as key agents of climate action. The organization partnered with Nabaad, as a local implementing partner.

The project targeting four districts across three Federal Member States (FMSs) in Somalia and established four youth networks, one in each of four districts, comprising 40 climate champions. These youth leaders receives comprehensive education and resources to strengthen their climate literacy and leadership skills.

The project supports them in raising awareness among peers, and communities, advocating for climate-responsive policies at local and national levels, and leading climate adaptation initiatives in their respective districts.



Stakeholder (High-level) Engagement

Youth Empowering Council (YECO) Somalia, with the aim of strengthening ties and improving youth and women's participation in decision-making, peace, and security processes, engaged local authorities from several districts, including Cadaado District of Galmudug State, Waberi District in the Benadir Regional Administration, and Hobyo District of Galmudug State, Somalia. During these engagements, local authorities shared their ongoing efforts to include youth and women in their decision-making processes and pledged to further foster their inclusion in governance and peacebuilding initiatives.

YECO Somalia further discussed with them their plans in advancing localized human rights education, expanding youth-led advocacy platforms, and establishing referral pathways for gender-based violence survivors within the districts.

Policy and Decisions Influencing



YECO Somalia actively facilitated and co-facilitated strategic engagements between youth, women, and government counterparts to establish lasting partnerships and connections aimed at building a peaceful, inclusive, and resilient future. Building on its efforts to empower youth in policy influence, YECO Somalia—in partnership with Nabaad—co-organized a movie night for youth trainees who participated in the Youth, Peace and Security (YPS) training in 2025, alongside a number of alumni from its 2024 programs.

The event offered an informal space for participants to connect, exchange ideas, and strengthen networks—reinforcing their role in shaping inclusive policies. They watched a movie together, sharing coffee and popcorn in a warm, welcoming atmosphere.



MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS AND CHALLENGES

Major Achievements:

1. **Institutionalized Human Rights Awareness in Schools** – For the first time in Cadaado district, secondary school students now have sustained access to human rights education through functioning rights clubs, leading to increased awareness of equality, dignity, and civic responsibility among young learners.
2. **Strengthened Local Capacity to Combat Gender-Based Violence** – Civil society organizations across Galmudug State are better equipped to prevent and respond to violence against women and girls, resulting in improved local ownership of protection efforts.
3. **Increased Commitment from Local Authorities** – Local governments in three districts (Cadaado, Hobyo, and Waberi) have formally pledged to include youth and women in decision-making, peace, and security processes, marking a shift toward more inclusive governance.
4. **Empowered Youth Network on Peace and Security** – A growing network of trained youth and alumni actively engaged in peacebuilding and policy influence, with strengthened peer connections and sustained participation in YPS-related dialogues.
5. **Bridged Collaboration Between Communities and Government** – Youth and women now have established platforms and partnerships with government counterparts, enabling more direct influence on local policies and decisions affecting their futures.

Challenges:

1. **Sustainability of Gains** – Without long-term funding and stronger local institutional ownership, the achievements made in human rights education and advocacy platforms remain at risk. Continued investment is required to embed these gains permanently.
2. **High Demand Exceeding Current Capacity** – The growing interest among youth and women to participate in human rights and peacebuilding activities has exceeded YECO Somalia's current operational capacity, creating a need for expanded resources to meet community demand.
3. **Insufficient Enforcement of Human Rights Protections** – Weak legal frameworks and limited enforcement mean that rights violations often go unaddressed, undermining trust in institutions.

Partners: Core and Non-Core





















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Nabaad
Shaping Tomorrow
YECO




YECO



YOUTH EMPOWERING COUNCIL

Nurturing youth skills.