



2022

ANNUAL REPORT



**YOUTH
EMPOWERING
COUNCIL**
Refining youth skills

VISION:
OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE YOUTH
UNEMPLOYMENT, MISSED SCHOOLING,
FACILITATION, DEPRIVED
YOUTH THROUGH CAPACITY
BUILDING PROGRAMS.

MISSION:
PROVIDE ACCESS TO LESS EDUCATED
YOUTH THROUGH
EMPLOYMENT OR PREPARING THEM
FOR JOBS BASED ON TRAINING
CAPACITY BUILDING PROVIDED IN
COOPERATION WITH STAKEHOLDERS.

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Acronyms and Abbreviations

YECO: Youth Empowering Council

EFASOM: Education for All Somalia

GPE: Global Partnership for Education

EOP: Education Outloud Project

EiE: Education in Emergencies

ABE: Accelerated Basic Education

IYD: International Youth Day

TVET: Technical, Vocational and Education Training

CSOs: Civil Society Organizations

DEO: District Education Officer

REO: Regional Education Officer

AU: African Union

MoYS: Ministry of Youth and Sports

UNFPA: United Nations Populations Fund

UNPBF: United Nations Peacebuilding Fund

UNSOM: United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia

Foreword

It is with great pleasure to present the Youth Empowering Council (YECO)'s 2022 Annual Report. This annual report showcases the achievements and progress made by YECO in the past year towards empowering and nurturing youth and women and transforming their lives. As the Executive Director of YECO, it is my honor to lead a team of dedicated and passionate individuals who are committed to making a positive impact in the lives of youth, women and children. Our work is centered on the belief that every young person, women and child deserves to have all the basic rights and the chance to succeed, regardless of their economic status, gender or any other factor.

Over the past year, we have continued to focus on addressing pressing issues affecting youth, women and children, including access to education, healthcare, economic opportunities, protection from violence and full participation in all decision making seats. Through our various programs and initiatives, we have reached a hundreds of youth, women and children, providing them with the resources and support they need to thrive.

One of our key achievements this year has been the advocacy we made to ensure that hundreds of youth and women in rural areas, internally displaced people – IDPs camps and hard-to-reach areas have the rights and the access to inclusive and quality primary education. We also have expended our mentorship program, which pairs young people with mentors who provide guidance and support in various

areas of their lives, including education, career development, and personal growth.

Additionally, we have continued to advocate for the rights of children, particularly those who are marginalized and vulnerable. Our efforts have included lobbying for policy changes, raising awareness about child rights issues, and collaborating with other organizations to provide support to children in need.

As you read through this report, I hope you will be inspired by the impact that YECO has made in the lives of youth, women and children in our community. None of this would have been possible without the dedication and commitment of our staff, volunteers, partners and supporters.

Looking ahead, we remain committed to our mission of empowering and nurturing youth and women and transforming their lives to reach their full potential. We know that there is still much work to be done, but we are confident that with your continued support, we can make a real difference in the lives of those we serve, we are grateful for you on-going support.



Sincerely,

Mohamed Shariif

Executive Director, Youth Empowering
Council (YECO)

Introduction

Youth Empowering Council (YECO) is a youth and women-led initiative and non-profit organization founded in 2014 with the aim of empowering, nurturing and transforming youth and women to become the leaders and the agents of changes in their communities and to create positive change in the society. YECO was founded by young educated people in response to a growing recognition that youth and women face a range of challenges that can hinder their ability to reach their full potential and contribute to the society. These challenges include limited access to inclusive education, employment opportunities, political participation, peace building and development, as well as social economic inequality.

Slogan: Empowered. Nurtured. Transformed

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.

Vision: Our vision is to see empowered, nurtured and transformed youth and women who actively participate in the decisions that affect their future and everyday lives.

Core Values

- ★ Inclusivity
- ★ Accountability
- ★ Collaboration
- ★ Continuous Learning

These core values are the foundation of everything we do at YECO, and they guide our decision-making, inform our relationships with stakeholders, and shape our organizational culture. We believe that by up-holding these core values, we can create a more empowerment, nurtured and transformed young population, promote community development, and contribute to a more just and equitable society for all.

Thematic areas

- ★ Women and Youth Empowerment
- ★ Inclusive and Democratic Governance
- ★ Social justice, Inclusion and Protection
- ★ Ending Poverty and Economic Development
- ★ Education and Technical, Vocational and Education Training – TEVT.
- ★ Peacebuilding and Conflict Resolution

These thematic areas are interconnected and reflect YECO's commitment to youth and women empowerment, community development, social justice, protection, contributing economic growth and ending poverty. At YECO, our programs and initiatives are designed to address the challenges facing youth and women in these areas and to make a positive impact.

2022, Year at Glance



50 primary school teachers were trained to provide support and encouragement to youth, women and girls who are returning to school.



Balanballe and Cadaado district education offices were engaged to support and increase access of women, youth and girls to education.



Engaged the frontline stakeholders of women, youth and girl's education.



Advocated the rights of 250+ youth, women and girls on access to education through policy change and stakeholder engagement.



Empowered and mentored 100+ young graduates and equipped with the soft skills needed in the labor market.



Participated almost two national conference and one international conference in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia on youth and women empowerment.



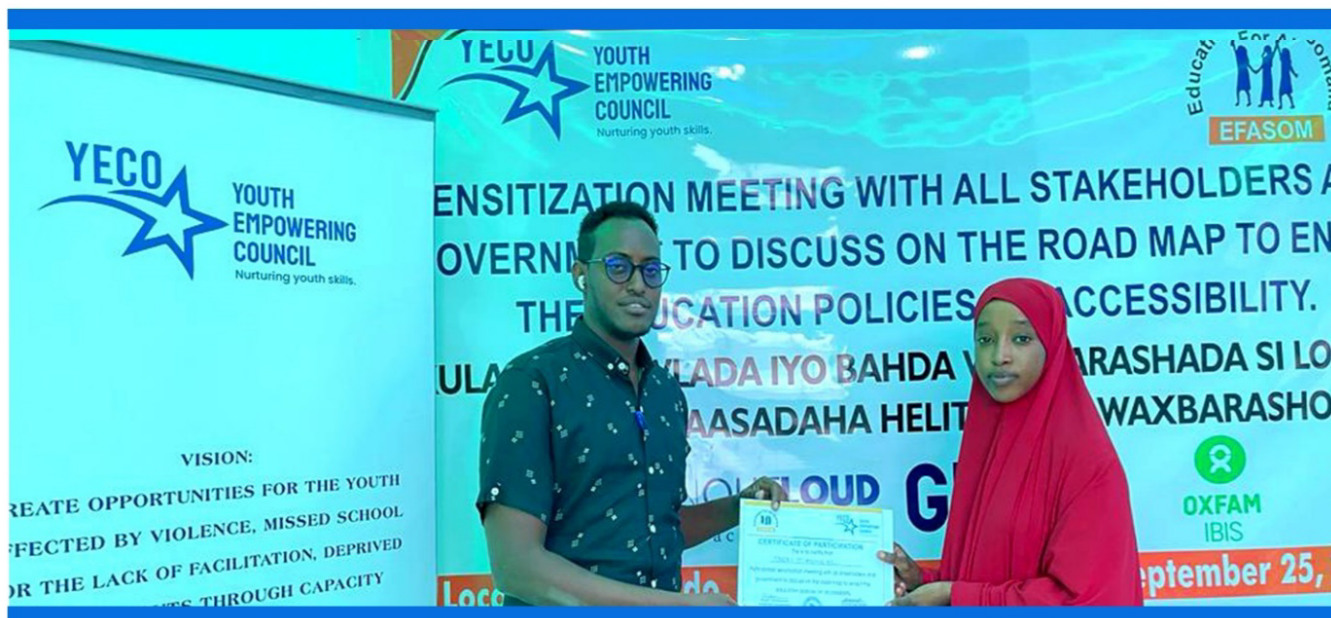
Collaborated with British Embassy in Mogadishu in organizing a roundtable youth discussion in commemoration of international youth day.



Actively participated the Observation Mission of Cadaado Local Council and collaborated with other civil society organizations (CSOs) to serve as election watchdogs to observe if women quotas were ensured.



Empowered and trained 52 peace-builders and conflict mediators in Galmudug State.



Education Outloud Project (PHASE II)

The Education Outloud Project, which receives funding from the Global Partnership for Education (GPE) and support from OXFAM IBIS and the Somalia National Education Consortium, Education for All Somalia (EFASOM), aims to promote inclusive and quality education for women, youth, and girls through stakeholder engagement and policy change. In 2022, Youth Empowering Council (YECO) co-implemented Phase II of the Education Outloud Project in Galmudug State, Somalia, one of its operational areas.

Through this initiative, YECO engaged with the education offices of Balanballe and Cadaado Districts, trained nearly 50 primary school teachers to provide support and encouragement to youth, women, and girls who are returning to school. Additionally, YECO Somalia advocated for the rights of more than 250+ youth, women, and girls to access inclusive and quality education through policy change and stakeholder's engagement.

Equip Them Initiative

The Equip Them Initiative is an effort spearheaded by YECO to equip young graduates, women, and youth with the necessary soft skills required to thrive in the labor market and secure employment opportunities, thereby influencing the job market. To implement this initiative, YECO partnered with several national non-governmental organizations and educational institutions, including Horn of



Africa University (HAU), Skillful International College, and ICOPE Somalia.

Through the collaborative efforts of these partners, YECO provided training, empowerment, and mentorship to over 100+ youth and women, equipping them with both soft and hard

skills that are essential in the labor market. The primary objective of this initiative was to reduce the high rate of unemployment in Somalia, especially among young graduates and women.

The beneficiaries of the Equip Them Initiative expressed their appreciation to YECO and its partners for their unwavering dedication and commitment towards empowering the younger generation and shaping their future through mentorship and empowerment.

Commemoration of International Youth Day, 2022

In honor of International Youth Day 2022, Youth Empowering Council (YECO) collaborated with the British Embassy in Mogadishu to co-host an interactive youth discussion that featured participants from various youth organizations. The discussion was chaired by the

former deputy Ambassador of British in Somalia, H.E. Richard Slak, and YECO's executive director, Mohamed Shariif Mohamed, delivered a side-speech.

During the interactive youth discussion, the Deputy Ambassador of British in Somalia listened the reflections of the participating youth organizations, with the



Youth Day. YECO's executive director emphasized the significance of the discussion, particularly with the presence of the British Deputy Ambassador, Richard Slak.

The representatives from youth organizations further discussed the challenges that young people face, the importance of addressing their needs, and the significance of empowering them. They also expressed appreciation for the British Government's unwavering support for the young people in Somalia.



aim of commemorating International

National and International Conferences Attended

Throughout the previous year, 2022, YECO was involved in various national and international conferences that were focused on youth empowerment and shaping the future of the upcoming generations. Some of the conferences that YECO participated in during 2022 include:

Pan-African Youth Forum that was held in the Women, Gender, and Youth Directorate of the African Union - AU Commission. The forum aimed to provide young people with a platform to engage in dialogue on issues that impact their communities and to advocate for their rights and needs.



Somalia National Youth Conference, which was organized by the Ministry of Youth and Sports of the Somali Federal Government of Somalia. The conference was designed to provide a space for youth to discuss their issues and amplify their voices.



Community Education Forum on Peace and Conflict Resolution

The community education forum on peace and conflict resolution was a proactive initiative aimed at promoting peace and equipping community members with the necessary knowledge and skills to address conflicts effectively and peacefully. The forum achieved outcomes including increased knowledge and awareness about peacebuilding and conflict resolution concepts, enhanced understanding of local conflicts, strengthened community capacity to address conflicts positively and improved communication and problem-solving skills among community members.



Three Days Capacity Building Workshop on Mediation and Conflict Resolution skills for Elders, Religious Leaders and Local Community Leaders

The three days capacity building workshop on mediation and conflict resolution skills focused on equipping elders, religious leaders and local community leaders with the necessary skills to mediate and resolve conflicts within their communities. The goal of the workshop was to enhance participants' capacity in effectively mediating and resolving conflicts, promote collaboration and coordination among key community figures and empowering participants with practical tools and skills to address conflicts and maintain peace within their communities. The achieved outcomes of the workshop included improved mediation and conflict resolution skills among the workshop participants, strengthened conflict management structures within the community through enhanced collaboration, increased confidence and competence in addressing conflicts and established network of trained mediators and conflict resolution practitioners within the community.



Adado Local Council Elections' Observation Mission

In August 2022, YECO actively participated in the observation mission of the Adado Local Council Elections, collaborating with other Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) to

serve as watchdogs during the election process. One of the key objectives of this observation was to ensure that women's quotas were upheld.

Adado Local Council Elections were held to elect members of the local council who would represent the interests of their respective communities. The inclusion of women and youth in these elections was of paramount importance, and the adherence to the mandated quota was crucial to ensure that women's and youth's voices were heard in decision-making processes.

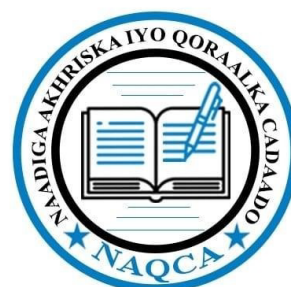


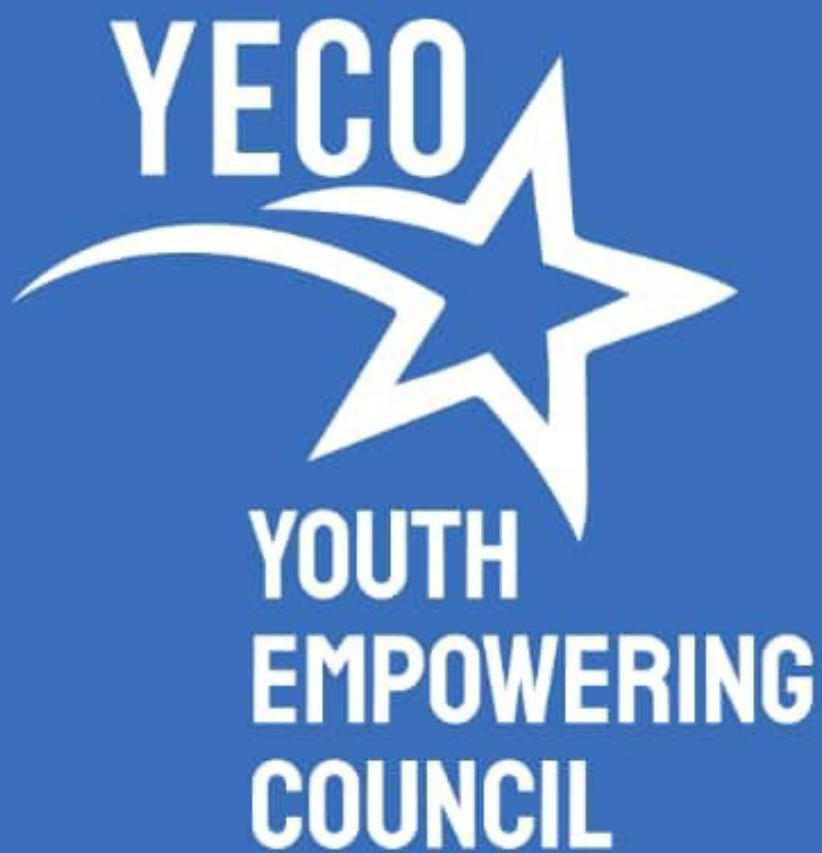
YECO's involvement in the observation process was instrumental in ensuring that the elections were free, fair, and transparent. Through their active engagement, YECO and other CSOs were able to monitor the election process, identify any irregularities, and report

them to the relevant authorities. By working together with other CSOs, YECO played a critical role in ensuring that youth and women's quotas were observed during the Adado Local Council Elections.



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