



# ANNUAL REPORT 2021

**YOUTH  
EMPOWERING  
COUNCIL**



**Nurturing youth skills.**

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## Acronyms and Abbreviations

<b>YECO:</b>	Youth Empowering Council
<b>EISA:</b>	Electoral Institute for Sustainable Democracy in Africa
<b>PEDDA:</b>	Peace and Democracy Development Action
<b>EFASOM:</b>	Education for All Somalia
<b>ABE:</b>	Accelerated Basic Education
<b>SENs:</b>	Special Education Needs
<b>TVET:</b>	Technical, Vocational Education Training
<b>NGOs:</b>	Non-Governmental Organizations
<b>INGOs:</b>	International Non-governmental Organizations
<b>SDGs:</b>	Sustainable Development Goals
<b>UN:</b>	United Nations
<b>WASH:</b>	Water, Hygiene and Sanitation
<b>CD:</b>	Country Director
<b>DEO:</b>	District Education Officer
<b>REO:</b>	Regional Education Officer
<b>MOECHE:</b>	Ministry of Education, Culture and Higher Education
<b>NDP9:</b>	National Development Plan
<b>NEC:</b>	National Employment Conference
<b>CSOs:</b>	Civil Society Organizations
<b>MSMEs:</b>	Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises
<b>SIYB:</b>	Start and Improve Your Business
<b>UNFPA:</b>	United Nations Population Fund
<b>TIKA:</b>	Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency
<b>MoLSA:</b>	Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs
<b>MoYS:</b>	Ministry of Youth and Sports
<b>FGS:</b>	Federal Government of Somalia
<b>FMSs:</b>	Federal Member States



# Our Leadership's Message



**Mohamed Shariif Mohamed**  
Executive Director, YECO

Since 2014, Youth Empowering Council has risen dealing with challenges met by Somali youth assisting them in multiple dimensions by bringing resources, capacities and expertise. At the heart of our commitment to the public good, is our mission. It grounds all of our activities and aspirations. Amid of uncertainty caused by the pandemic, this year was another year full of activities. As we aspire making differences to the lives of youth

and women and the way they think, we focused engaging with them to fulfil their rights in participating decision making and elections during this year of nation-wide elections. Despite some challenges, some of them have accessed and got elected. Thanks to our partners who made possible to reach our 2021 target. In this year, we have been implemented successfully a number of significant programmes:

- Public discussions, capacity building workshops and public campaigns to seek and improve youth and women participation in both national and state level elections: this interaction was intended brainstorming opportunities and challenges youth have to anticipate possible actions and way forward and also we built their capacity on leadership and proper representation also we campaigned their rights on political participation.
- Public discussions on how media can be watchdogs during the elections: In this year of national elections, it is important to engage with local youth who are at the forefront of reporting everything about elections to inform the public and the voters and all other stakeholders for election coverage. For that reason and in addition to upholding election accountability and citizen rights, we selected regional local journalists to rise their knowledge and awareness regarding election coverage in post conflict setting. Despite the challenges, at least trained journalists succeeded to maintain minimum standard for reporting Somalia's indirect elections which dominated by mismanagement, intimidation, lack of access right for some candidates to the polling sites and fraudulence.
- Physical and virtual commemorations of international youth and world environmental day: during this, we focused the best ways youth can contribute peace and security in Somalia as our country become a victim of insecurity caused by Non-State actors and other organized militias affiliated to clans. We believe without peace and stability Somali youth cannot break the cycle of poverty to achieve standard wellbeing as other youth around world. That is why peace and security engagement and advocacy become at the heart of our activities each year, also during the session we talked more on the environmental and we proposed pledges to protect the environment and the earth.
- Public discussion and public campaigns to advocate accelerated basic education - ABE and special education needs – SENs: Somalia has one of the lowest score of school enrollment to the school aged children globally due to the protracted conflicts, crises and displacements resulting hundreds of school aged children to be out of school. In that regard, we interacted with some of primary education teachers at regional level to advocate the education of children affected by conflicts who are forced to flee their homes and those who missed classes because of school fee problems and other access challenges and currently cannot participate normal classes because of age variance.
- Appreciation and Gala-Dinner to honor the literacy campaign committee in Cadaado district, Galmudug State of Somalia: to recognize the outstanding and the efforts of the literacy campaign committee in Cadaado district, we organized an appreciation and Gala-Dinner event in collaboration with EFASOM with the support from OXFAM IBIS and Funds from Global Partnership for Education – GPE.

**Somalia is a country paralyzed by combined manmade and natural disasters making complicated to achieve tangible and measurable outcomes in most of circumstances. Despite being 75% of the country's population, the youth failed to dissolve prolonged crises and figure out robust strategies to save their country. It's because of they are divided into groups and clan fractions added by deep poverty conditions. For the coming years, we'll keep fighting to reduce these layers of problems in guidance with our mission/vision and core values and closely working with all concerned stakeholders.**

**Mohamed Shariif Mohamed**

Executive Director, Youth Empowering Council – YECO



## About Youth Empowering Council - YECO

Youth Empowering Council – YECO is a youth-led initiative, non-profit and non-governmental organization founded in 2014 by a group of Somali youth when they felt the need for the youth-led initiative works for promoting civic education, empower women and youth, advocating human rights, education, peacebuilding and democracy in Somalia. YECO operates in Somalia since 2014 and focus on human rights, good governance, democracy, TVET programs and youth and women and empowering.

### Youth Empowering Council – YECO have unique qualifications and include:

- **YECO** had at least 6+ years of experience in capacity building programs and we feel comfortable for implementing like this project.
- **YECO** have a strong relationship with line ministries of our programs, CSOs and NGOs and even local communities in areas we operate and we have a huge understanding of the context of operating in Galmudug State, Somalia.
- **YECO** have skilled, talented and committed team of volunteers who positively contribute the community and raise their awareness on human rights, democracy and peacebuilding.
- **YECO** have a functioning website and social media presence through Facebook, Instagram and Twitter accounts which will facilitate outreach and ensure our activities, messages and output reach greater number of populations.
- **YECO** have very experienced project management team and a meticulous financial management system which ensures accurate records are kept in all the stages of the project.

### There're three facilities under YECO Somalia as the followings:

- **YECO Forum4Ideas:** a space designed to host public discussions and give youth and women chances to express and present their ideas towards peacebuilding, good governance and education.
- **YECO Learning & Development Centre:** a center aimed to empower youth and women particularly the newly graduating students to build their core skills and prepare to interact the labor market effectively.
- **YECO Innovation Hub:** a hub designed to move out the potentials of youth and women and also the newly graduated students to develop their existing SMEs and also help them to create newly once.

## Where we work

Introduction: Youth Empowering Council – **YECO** is a youth-led initiative founded in 2014 by a group of Somali youth when they felt the need for the youth-led initiative and local organization works for peacebuilding, advocating human rights, promotion civic education, education, youth and women empowering and TVET Programmes.

Since 2014, **YECO** has been implementing a lot of useful programs and officially operates in Somalia, implements and co-implements projects and programs in Benadir Regional Administration – **BRA** and Galmudug State of Somalia.



## What we do

Youth Empowering Council – **YECO** Somalia focuses on the following goals of Sustainable Development Goals - SDGs:

1. No Poverty
2. Good Health and Well-being
- 3- Quality Education
4. Gender Equality
5. Decent Work and Economic Growth
6. Industry and Innovation
7. Reduced Inequalities
8. Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions
9. Climate Action



## 2021 Overall Programmes

The year of 2021 was an amazing and great year for Youth Empowering Council – **YECO** Somalia. In 2021, **YECO** Somalia implemented and co-implemented a lot of Projects such as Education Outlood Project which is **GPE** Funded project and **STAND-UP** Somalia Project which is **SIDA** Funded project. This year **YECO** done capacity building activities, peacebuilding activities, education and engaging education stakeholder activities and enhancing the capacity of journalists on election coverage to ensure the happening of peaceful and democratic elections since without media coverage peaceful and democratic elections cannot happen. The main projects **YECO** implemented and co-implemented include:

1. Education Outlood Project: this is Global Partnership for Education – GPE funded project with the support from **OXFAM** IBIS through Somali education consortium Education for All Somalia – **EFASOM** Somalia, the project aimed to strength the capacities of civil society and education stakeholders to implement inclusive and quality education and ensure advocacy and social accountability.
2. Support Towards A Democratic, Unified and Peaceful Somalia – **STAND-UP** Somalia: this a Swedish International Development Agency – **SIDA** funded project with the support from Electoral Institute for Sustainable Democracy in Africa – **EISA** Somalia.
3. Go to School Project: This is **YECO** Contributed project with the support from Adado local authority, the project aimed to advocate the rights of children and women on education.



**On the other hand, with the support from our core and non-core partners and donors, we held a capacity building workshops and public discussions and include:**

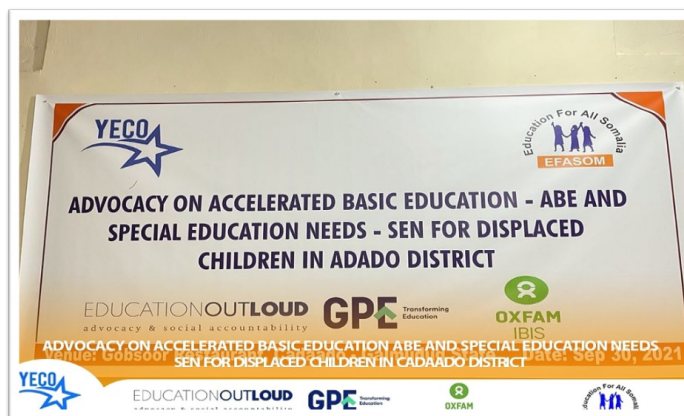
- In May, 2021 YECO Somalia held an interactive session on “Youth and women participation in national elections”. The aim of that interactive debate was to engage youth and women participation in national elections, challenges, opportunities and how to ensure their participation and their role in national elections and even the states elections in the future. The interactive debate was attended by youth organizations, individuals, university students, youth who interests politics and have a desire to being politicians and two election experts was the panelists of the interactive debate while a member from YECO Somalia moderated the debate.
- Virtual commemoration of international youth day: In August 12, 2021 in collaboration with Peace and Democracy Development Action – PEDDA Somalia, Youth Empowering Council - YECO Somalia conducted a virtual commemoration of international youth day, that virtual event was attended by Government officials, members from International Organization, National Organization, youth and women organizations. Participants were discussed how youth can take a part of rebuilding of Somalia nation and how they can contribute peace and security since without peace and security there's no positive action can exist.
- In August 12, 2021 in collaboration with Electoral Institute for Sustainable Democracy in Africa – EISA Somalia, YECO Somalia conducted an interactive debate was titled on “media as election watchdog” and themed on “let's talk elections” in Dhuusamareb, Galmudug State of Somalia. The aim of that debate was to engage local journalists & discuss how the journalists can be election watchdogs. The debate was attended by journalists, social media figures and individuals who passionate elections and democracy.

**Mohamed Abdullahi Mohamed:** the debate panelist, He's the founder and CEO of CEELHUUR Media house, he is former Chairman of Himan and Heeb Administration Election Committee, he has a decade experience on media and elections.

**Ali-Dahir Yousuf:** the debate panelist, Ali-Dahir is a lecturer at Mogadishu University, social media figure, youth activist and he interests politics and elections.

- In September 30, 2021, in collaboration with Education for All Somalia – EFASOM, YECO Somalia conducted an advocacy workshop titled on “Advocacy on accelerated basic education – ABE and special education needs – SENs for displaced children in Adado, Galmudug State of Somalia.

**The main purpose of the workshop was to engage the primary and secondary school teachers on ABE and SENs for displaced and disadvantaged children in Adado District, Galmudug State of Somalia.**



*Photo credit: @YECOSomalia*



The workshop was attended by primary and secondary school teachers, university students, education activists. The guest speakers include:



**Mukhtar Abdirahman**, he's a lecturer at Simad University and education activist.

**Hussein Sahal:** Hussein is Adado district education officer – DEO, he has been working in the education sector more than a decade and he presented the importance of ABE and SENs for disadvantaged and displaced children in Cadaado.

In November 26, 2021, in collaboration with Education for All Somalia – EFASOM, Youth Empowering Council conducted an engaging DEO in special education and appreciation ceremony of literacy campaign committee in Adado, Galmudug state, Somalia. The aim of the ceremony was to motivate the literacy campaign committee who committed to raise the awareness of nomads on education and it's important.



*Photo credit: @YECOSomalia*

- Cadaado district education officer – DEO launched the event, he thanked to EFASOM and YECO for their efforts on implementing inclusive and quality education through the stakeholders. He welcomed the literacy campaign committee members and he praised their volunteerism work on raising the



awareness of nomads on education. The executive director of YECO Mohamed Sharif & Adado DEO discussed with the committee & thanked for their volunteerism work and also advised to sustain the campaigning the education of voiceless groups. After fruitful discussion with the literacy campaign committee, Cadaado DEO and the executive director of YECO were awarded the



committee members an appreciation certificates in recognition of their commitment and continue of volunteerism work on raising nomad's awareness on education.

- In October 10-11, 2021, in collaboration with Peace and Democracy Development Action – PEDDA, YECO Somalia conducted two days capacity building workshop targeted the civil society organizations in Cadaado, Galmudug State, Somalia to build their capacity on advocating human rights particularly women and children in IDP Camps in Galmudug State.

The workshop launched by the Cadaado district deputy commissioner Nur Yarrow Heile and thanked to PEDDA and YECO Somalia for organizing such this vital workshop. The last day of the workshop closed by representatives from PEDDA and YECO Somalia.

## National-Level Conferences Attended

Youth Empowering Council – YECO Somalia attended both national and State level conferences on youth empowerment, peacebuilding, employment, reconciliation, education, justice and human rights. The national-level conferences YECO Somalia attended include:

- **Somali National Youth Policy Reform:** In 2021, YECO Somalia attended the National Youth Policy Reform aimed to reform the Somali Youth Policy of 2022-2026, the conference hosted by Ministry of Youth and Sports of Somali Federal Government with the support from United Nations Population Fund - UNFPA Somalia
- **National Employment Conference:** The director of YECO Innovation Hub attended the national employment conference which the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs of Federal Government of Somalia hosted with the support from International partners. The director of YECO Innovation Hub praised the efforts of MoLSA on decreasing the rate of unemployment in Somalia and also hosting this important conference.



## Number of trained youths

Youth Empowering Council – YECO Somalia operates in Galmudug since 2015, at that time up to now, YECO Somalia collaborates with civil society organizations, youth organizations, forums and line ministries to YECO's programs. In the last 6 years YECO have been working for youth empowering ma youth or women and trained more than 8,400+ youth “men and women” and included people with disabilities and marginalized groups.



## Donors and stakeholders

Since 2014 Youth Empowering Council – YECO Somalia has been working with civil society organizations, youth organizations, LNGOs and International non – governmental organizations. YECO Somalia respect and listen the stakeholders of any project, workshop and so on. May be local authority, local community, line ministry such as ministry of youth and sports.

### Our key Donors and Partners

Most of YECO's programmes was community, youth and member's contributions but there're a number of donors & partners collaborates with YECO and include:

- Electoral Institute for Sustainable Democracy in Africa – EISA Somalia: on February 2021, the executive director of YECO Somalia met with the country director of Electoral Institute for Sustainable Democracy in Africa – EISA Somalia Mr. Mukenyi Madibanga in his office in Mogadishu, after introductory conversation the executive director of YECO Somalia presented a presentation about YECO. After hours of conversation and discussion, YECO Somalia representative and EISA Somalia CD agreed to build a collaboration and strong partnership.



Photo credit: @YECOSomalia

- Education for All Somalia – EFASOM: In 2021, our executive director met with EFASOM Coordinator Mr. Adam in his office in Mogadishu. YECO director and EFASOM coordinator discussed how YECO and EFASOM can collaborate to advocate the education of displaced children, people with special needs, marginalized groups and disadvantaged children.





## Challenges and gaps

there're a number of challenges those YECO team were met during the implementation of the projects, the major challenges include: low of the target people's awareness on education, development, good governance and human rights, also the needs are huge and the resources are so limited so it is so significant to get a resource to respond the needs of the community on education, human rights advocacy, democracy and good governance also the civil society representatives are much needed for capacity building programmes.

## Published articles

Since 2014 we have been working for peacebuilding, strengthening democracy, human rights advocacy, implementing inclusive and quality education, so there're a number of articles on education, good governance, youth participation in elections and so on, to read fully of those articles you can visit our website: [www.yecosomalia.so](http://www.yecosomalia.so)

### Efforts Towards Building Strong Partnership in Pictures



It was in February, 2022. Our Executive Director Mohamed Shariif Mohamed met and had a fruitful discussion and morning coffee with **TIKA Somalia country coordinator, Mr. Ilhami Turus**, our executive director and TIKA Somalia country coordinator discussed possible collaborations on both sides in education and humanitarian sector. Finally, both sides agreed to collaborate and empower youth and women in Somalia and build their skills and capacities to handle their families' life.







In Sep, 2021, our executive director participated Somalia National Youth Policy Reform in Mogadishu, Ministry of Youth and Sports of FGS hosted with the support from **UNFPA**, in there, our director met with Khadra Ali, **UNFPA** Youth fund manager and Mohamed Nassri, **UNFPA** Communication and advocacy officer.



It was September, 2021. Our Executive Director had a joint meeting with the Chairman of **Benadir Youth Association** and UN in Somalia Youth Specialist Martha Wanjala. The sides are discussed possible ways of empowering youth and women in Benadir Region.



## Partners: Core and Non-Core



## CONTACT US

If you're interesting to reach us as an individual or organization you can contact with us the addresses below or visit our office in Cadaado, Galmudug State



+252612643002  
+252682456592



HQ: Cadaado, Galmudug State  
Gidheys Street, Near Al-Huda Mosque.



info@yecosomalia.so  
yecosomalia.org@hotmail.com  
www.yecosomalia.so



@YECO Somalia

