



ANNUAL REPORT 2023

Empowering. Nurturing. Transforming



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Abbreviations and Acronyms

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

HAU: Horn of Africa University

EA Institute: East African Institute for Peace and Governance

TVET: Technical, Vocational and Education Training

CSOs: Civil Society Organizations

Gov't: Government

FMS: Federal Member State

FGS: Federal Government of Somalia

DEO: District Education Officer

REO: Regional Education Officer

YCA: Youth Connekt Africa

MoYS: Ministry of Youth and Sports

PO: Programme Officer

ETI: Equip Them Initiative

UNPBF: United Nations Peacebuilding Fund

**Message from
the Chairperson:**

We are delighted to present our 2023 Annual Report, and it is with immense pride that we share a remarkable achievements and progress we have made over the past year. Our team has been tirelessly working towards our mission of empowering, nurturing and transforming young people and creating a positive impact in our communities. Through our various programs, initiatives and collaboration, we have successfully provided opportunities for personal growth, leadership and development and social change.

One of the highlights of this year's Annual Report is the expansion of our mentorship program and our efforts towards advocating girls' education. We have witnessed the transformative power of mentorship and advocacy, as young individuals have gained valuable guidance, support and inspiration from seasoned professionals in their respective fields and as girls get access to primary education. Our mentorship program has not only equipped youth with necessary skills and knowledge, but also fostered meaningful connections and networks, also our significant accomplishment is the successful co-implementation of Education Outloud project and our team have actively engaged with local communities, and stakeholders as well and our collective efforts have made a tangible different in the lives of many and have inspired positive change.

Furthermore, we have been at the forefront of advocating for youth empowerment and amplifying youth voices on a broader scale and we have actively collaborated with government entities, non-governmental organizations and youth organizations to influence policies and create an enabling environment for young people to thrive and also our advocacy campaigns have raised awareness on important socio-political issues and have sparked meaningful conversations across various platforms.

None of these achievements would have been possible without the dedication and hard work of our diverse team and I, on behalf of YECO would like to express my deepest gratitude to each and every one for the unwavering commitment and enthusiasm and your contributions have been instrumental in driving our organization's success and impact, also I would like to extend my heartfelt appreciation to our valued stakeholders, partners and friends as their trust, guidance and generous contributions have played a pivotal role in our growth and accomplishments.

As we reflect on the achievements of the past year, let us also look ahead with renewed determination and ambition. Let's continue to work together, harness the power of youth, innovation and collaboration to drive positive change.

Sincerely,

Farhia M Hassan, 

Chair-Lady, Board of Directors


Youth Empowering Council (YECO).


About **YECCO** Somalia

Background:

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 selfreliant, 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 |  Collaboration |
|  Accountability |  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 empowered, 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.

2023 Year at a Glance

- 01 Mentored 320+ youth and equipped with the employability skills
- 02 Advocated the rights of 540 girls to inclusive and quality education.
- 03 Trained 45 community members to advocate girls education
- 04 Trained 20 primary school teachers to support girls in education
- 05 Attended two international conference on peace, climate change and youth empowerment
- 06 Joined Somali NGOs forces to advocate localization
- 07 Commemorated international youth day 2023
- 08 Engaged local authorities in our project districts

2023 Overall Programmes:

Equip Them Initiative (ETI Program)

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 nongovernmental 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 for



first year, equipping them with both soft and hard skills that are essential in the labor market. In the past year (2023), 85 newly graduates benefited from this program and now navigating 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.

Objectives:

- 01 Equipping young graduates with the soft skills needed in the labor market
- 02 Providing mentorship to young people joining the labor market to raise their awareness and guide.
- 03 Reducing the high rate of unemployment in the country by producing a young graduates equipped with the right and needed skills in market

Target Locations:

The Equip Them Initiative (ETI Program) has been targeting three districts, Cadaado and Gaalkacyo districts in Galmudug State, and Hodan district in Benadir Regional Administration (BRA).

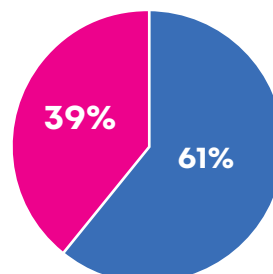
Direct Beneficiaries

The number of direct beneficiaries of the ETI program during the past two years 185 young graduates.

Gender:

 61% Male

 39% Female



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 2023, 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 20 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 540+ girls to access inclusive and quality education through policy change and stakeholder's engagement.

Objectives:

- 01 Advocating rights of girls to inclusive primary education
- 02 Pushing government and education stakeholders to support girls education
- 03 Supporting girls education through teacher-training initiatives

Target Locations:

The Education Outloud Project is targeting the different Federal Member State in the Country and YECO is implementing components targeting Galmudug State of Somalia, particularly the PHASE II of the project is going on in Cadaado and Balanballe

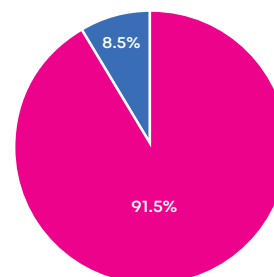
Direct Beneficiaries

The sum of the direct beneficiaries of the project for the past two years are 750+ girls where their education rights were advocated and they got access to quality education, trained 20 primary school teachers.

Gender:

 8.5%
Male

 91.5%
Female



CONFERENCES ATTENDED

Berlin Peace Dialogue (Virtual)

The Berlin Peace Dialogue 2023 was a significant global event aimed at fostering dialogue, diplomacy and cooperation among nations to address pressing international issues and promote peace and civilian protection. The conference was held in Berlin and we attended virtually as we are registered to attend virtually.

As attendee of the Berlin Peace Dialogue, we had the opportunity listen representatives from Governments, International Organizations, Civil Society and other stakeholders. The conference provided a platform for world leaders and experts to address critical global challenges, including conflict resolution, human rights, climate change and sustainable development. Through the conference, various panels, and plenary sessions were organized to facilitate constructive dialogue and the exchange of ideas. These sessions covered a wide range of topics, allowing participants to delve into specific issues and propose innovative solutions and the virtual format of the conference enabled wider participation and inclusivity, ensuring that voices from around the world could be heard.



African Youth Connekt 2023:



A dynamic and dedicated team from Youth Empowering Council (YECO) participated in the African Youth Connekt Summit 2023 organized by the National Youth Council Kenya. The summit took place at the Kenyatta International Convention Centre (KICC) and brought together over 20,000 young people from across Africa and beyond.

The summit began with a tree planting exercise in Kasarani on the first day, and also our team from YECO had the privilege of attending youth leadership workshops on-site.



UNPBF Project Conflict Sensitive Workshop:



The International Rescue Committee (IRC) Somalia is implementing 1.5 million valued project, in two Federal Member State in Somalia, Benadir Regional Administration (BRA) and South West State, as a youth organization, IRC Somalia's Peacebuilding and Governance Manager invited us to attend the workshop, where we engaged the different attended organizations and contributed insightful ideas on how to engage youth in the peacebuilding and conflict resolution projects and initiatives.

Book Launch: BOOJIN:

In Cadaado district, we have hosted and organized the Boojin book launch, a novel book authored by Sakariye Cismaan, Chief-In-Editor of Gorfayn. Youth leaders and organizations, government officials and community members attended the book launch and spoke about the importance of reading and writing as well. The book Author, Sakariye Cismaan appreciated YECO for the unwavering support to host this book launch in Cadaado, Galmudug State of Somalia.



Commemoration of International Youth Day 2023:



One of our remarkable achievements in the past year including that we have organized a hybrid event to commemorate international youth day (2023) with the participation of youth organizations and leaders, policy experts and government officials with the theme: Green Skills for Youth: Towards a Sustainable World. Policy experts and seasoned professionals in youth empowerment presented their insights in equipping youth with green skills and strategies for practicing the theme.

Local Authorities Engagement:

One of our strategic ways of reaching the right people, ensuring the impact of our projects and targeting the right people is to engage the local authorities of the areas we are targeting. In the past year, we have engaged different local authorities including Cadaado district Administration and Balanballe district Administration in Galmudug State of Somalia



Our Partners



British Embassy
Mogadishu



OXFAM IBIS



Hiddo
Creatives