

ENDLINE EVALUATION REPORT

Prepared for:



YOUTH and Urban Regeneration Somalia (YOURS)

Prepared by:



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ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

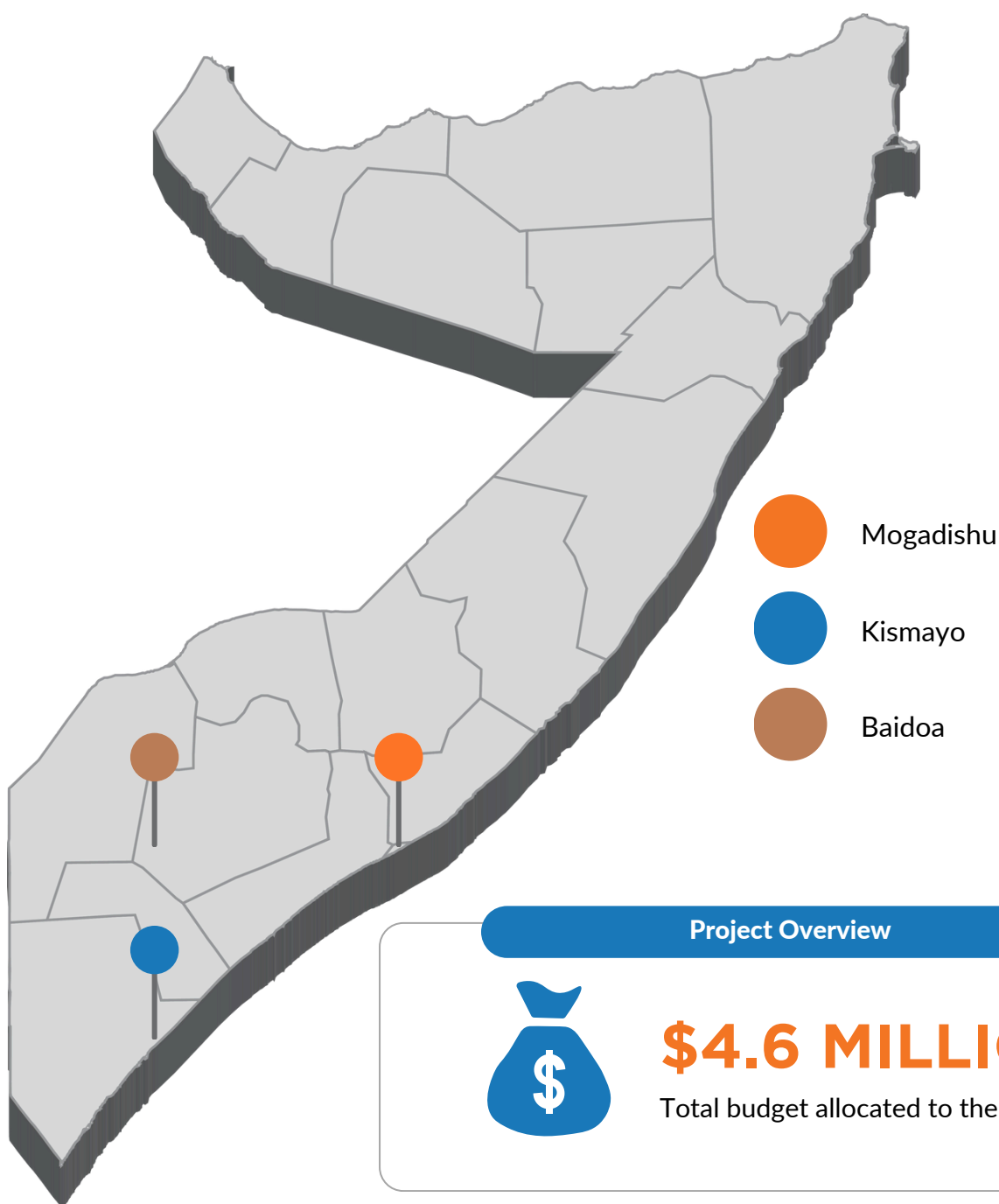
ADC	Agricultural Development Cooperation
AoC	Agreement of Cooperation
BDS	Business Development Services
BYH	Baidoa Youth Hub
CIPP	Context Input Process Product
CSOs	Civil Society Organizations
DAC	Displacement Affected Communities
GIZ	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit
HLPR	Housing, Land and Properties Rights
IDPs	Internally Displaced Persons
INGOs	International non-governmental organizations
LAG	Local Action Group
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MEAL	Monitoring Evaluation Adapting and Learning
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
MPCA	Multi-Purpose Cash Transfer
NCE	No-Cost-Extension
NRC	Norwegian Refugee Council
NUA	New Urban Agenda

OECD/DAC	The Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development's Development Assistance Committee
PWD	Persons With Disability
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
SIDA	The Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency
SOYVA	Somali Youth Volunteers Association
SWCRI	Southwest Commission for Returnees and IDPs
SWS-MoYS	South-West State Ministry of Youth and Sports
TORs	Terms of Reference
ToT	Training of Trainers
UN	United Nations
UNEG	United Nations Evaluation Group
USD	United States Dollar
VCA	Value Chain Analysis
WASH	Water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH)
YOURS	Youth and Urban Regeneration Somalia

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Introduction

This evaluation was conducted in response to UN-Habitat's request for an external evaluation of the Youth and Urban Regeneration Somalia (YOURS) project which started in July 2020 and is scheduled to end in May 2024. The project is funded by Embassy of Sweden with a total budget of 40 million SEK, equivalent to USD 4.6 million and implemented in Mogadishu, Baidoa, and Kismayo cities of Somalia. The project's main objective was to contribute to sustainable urban development by building resilience communities and providing urban services and livelihood opportunities for residents and marginalized groups. The project consists of two main components: 1) Youth and Livelihoods, and 2) Urban Regeneration.



Project background and context

The project was designed to contribute to reduced spatial urban inequalities by promoting sustainable urban regeneration, youth development, and re-integration of marginalized groups through capacity building of government institutions and enhancement of socio-economic resilience of urban communities. UN-Habitat is the main implementing agency in collaboration with partners at all levels, including government, civil society, and the private sector to transform cities into safer, healthier, greener, and more inclusive and resilient places with better opportunities and quality of life for all. Key targeted audiences of this evaluation are the project team, UN-Habitat management, the donor, and implementing partners.

Project objectives, intended outcomes, outputs and approach

The main objective of YOURS project was to contribute to sustainable urban development by building resilience communities and providing urban services and livelihood opportunities for residents and marginalized groups. The project consists of two main components namely; Youth and Livelihoods and Urban Regeneration. The two components have four corresponding outcomes and related outputs as summarized below.

Outcome 1: Increased employment opportunities in market sector driven value chains under the sustainable productive sectors.

Output 1.1: Employability enhanced through demand-based skills development in the selected value chains and productive sectors across Somalia.

Output 1.2: Employment opportunities created through the use of labor-intensive approaches in infrastructure rehabilitation and development across the selected value chains and productive sectors.

Output 1.3: Safe and generative spaces for youth are constructed to support holistic youth development.

Outcome 2: Increased youth participation in peacebuilding and reconciliation efforts including engagement in local governance and national decision-making processes.

Output 2.1: Enhanced capacities of young people to become agents of change for peacebuilding and urban development priorities.

Output 2.2: Strengthened capacity of local and Government authorities to engage youth networks and existing youth structures at regional/local level governments to ensure youth inclusive policies and practices are in place.

Outcome 3: Enhanced local social, economic, and spatial integration of displacement affected households through urban regeneration and upgrading projects that expand the delivery of basic services.

Output 3.1: Local authorities and local leaders (e.g. village leaders, area leader, councilors where available, parliamentarians) are supported on participatory, inclusive, evidence-based planning and prioritization of city and community level interventions and area-based coordination mechanism.

Output 3.2: IDPs and vulnerable communities have unimpeded access to basic urban services including water and sanitation, housing and health and support provided to design, implement and monitor area-based, community led interventions that support the living conditions of displacement affected households and host communities.

Output 3.3: Strengthened regional and city authorities' urban resilience actions (action plans) to include basic needs of migrants in post crises and recovery phase.

Output 3.4: Urban vulnerable population have access to direct cash transfer kitty to cushion them from the economic impact as a result of crisis.

Outcome 4: Improved/strengthened capacity of local authorities to implement durable solutions and youth development initiatives across Somalia.

Output 4.1: Scaled-up capacities towards inclusive cities through knowledge exchange between cities and communities at national level to promote urban solutions.

Output 4.2: Innovative and creative solutions for fit-for-purpose Shelter and housing focusing upon local building culture, climate change adaptation and livelihood promoted.

Purpose and scope

The purpose of this evaluation is twofold: to enhance accountability and facilitate learning. Its primary aim is to promote accountability by providing UN-Habitat, donors, and relevant stakeholders with an impartial assessment of whether the YOURS project achieved its intended outcomes and to delineate the underlying factors contributing to its success or challenges. Additionally, in alignment with UN-Habitat's commitment to program improvement, this evaluation seeks to foster learning by offering valuable insights into effective strategies, areas for enhancement, operational experiences, and both opportunities and obstacles encountered during project implementation. The findings, lessons gleaned, and recommendations stemming from this evaluation are intended to inform future decision-making processes regarding program planning, design, and execution, as well as to contribute to the advancement of similar initiatives in analogous contexts. The specific objectives of the evaluation include the following:

- (i) Assess the performance of the YOURS project against its objectives and expected accomplishments, including increased employment opportunities in market sector-driven value chains, enhanced youth participation in peacebuilding and reconciliation efforts, and improved local social, economic, and spatial integration of displacement-affected households through urban regeneration projects and strengthened capacity of local authorities to implement durable solutions and youth development initiatives across Somalia.
- (ii) Evaluate the project's value-for-money in terms of relevance, efficiency, effectiveness, sustainability, impact, and coherence.
- (iii) Examine the appropriateness of planning, implementation modalities, coordination, partnerships, and management and their contributions to achieving the project's planned results.
- (iv) Assess the effects of Covid-19 on project implementation.,
- (v) Evaluate the integration of cross-cutting themes such as gender, equity, human rights, democracy, good governance, DAC (Displacement Affected Communities) rights, social safeguards, and environmental sustainability in project planning and implementation.; and
- (vi) Identify lessons learned and provide recommendations for improving future planning, programming, and implementation of similar projects in the same context.

Approach and methodology

This evaluation was conducted in accordance with the United Nations Evaluation Group (UNEG) Norms and Standards for evaluation in the Nations System, employing the six UNEG criteria: relevance, coherence, efficiency, effectiveness, impact, and sustainability, which align with the OECD/DAC criteria. Two approaches were utilized: Firstly, a Results-based approach, specifically the Theory of Change Approach, was employed to elucidate how the YOURS project was intended to function in order to achieve its planned objectives. Secondly, a Context Input Process Product (CIPP) approach was utilized to assess the project's implementation structures, management systems and procedures, collaboration, coordination, and partnerships.

A blended methodology was adopted, integrating both quantitative and qualitative approaches within a participatory framework. This approach aimed to ascertain the enduring and cross-generational results and achievements stemming from YOURS initiatives. Data collection involved a comprehensive review of relevant project documents, key informant interviews, and focus group discussions with implementing partners, key national stakeholders, and UN-Habitat project staff. Additionally, quantitative data was gathered from YOURS beneficiaries through household-level surveys. Field visits were conducted to assess activities in the project implementation sites, providing insights into the scope, depth, and range of activities. Through this multifaceted approach, the evaluation seeks to provide a holistic assessment of the YOURS project's performance and its impact on target communities.

Limitations

During the assignment, a few limitations were encountered and strategies to address them: First, difficulties arose in tracing some direct project beneficiaries, particularly training participants, as some interventions had occurred a year ago and individuals had relocated or changed contact information. To mitigate this, the field team collaborated closely with program teams and focal persons, utilizing alternative means of communication and community networks. Unreachable beneficiaries were replaced with others.

Secondly, recall bias was a concern for certain project activities, such as cash transfers and community-oriented trainings, conducted long ago. Respondents struggled to recall details accurately. To counteract this bias, the evaluation team employed thorough probing techniques during interviews, allowing respondents ample time to process information. Additionally, triangulation methods were used, combining interview data with desk reviews and narrative report data synthesis.

Third, some stakeholders being reluctant to share honest opinions due to fear of reprisal, cultural norms, or power dynamics despite affirmations that the data would adhere to strict confidentiality practices. To foster trust and encourage candid feedback, the team employed strategies such as deploying trusted local field teams, ensuring confidentiality and anonymity of collected data, and utilizing triangulation methods to validate information from various sources. Lastly, availability issues arose with some targeted Key Informant Interviews (KIIs) due to competing engagements.

Main Findings

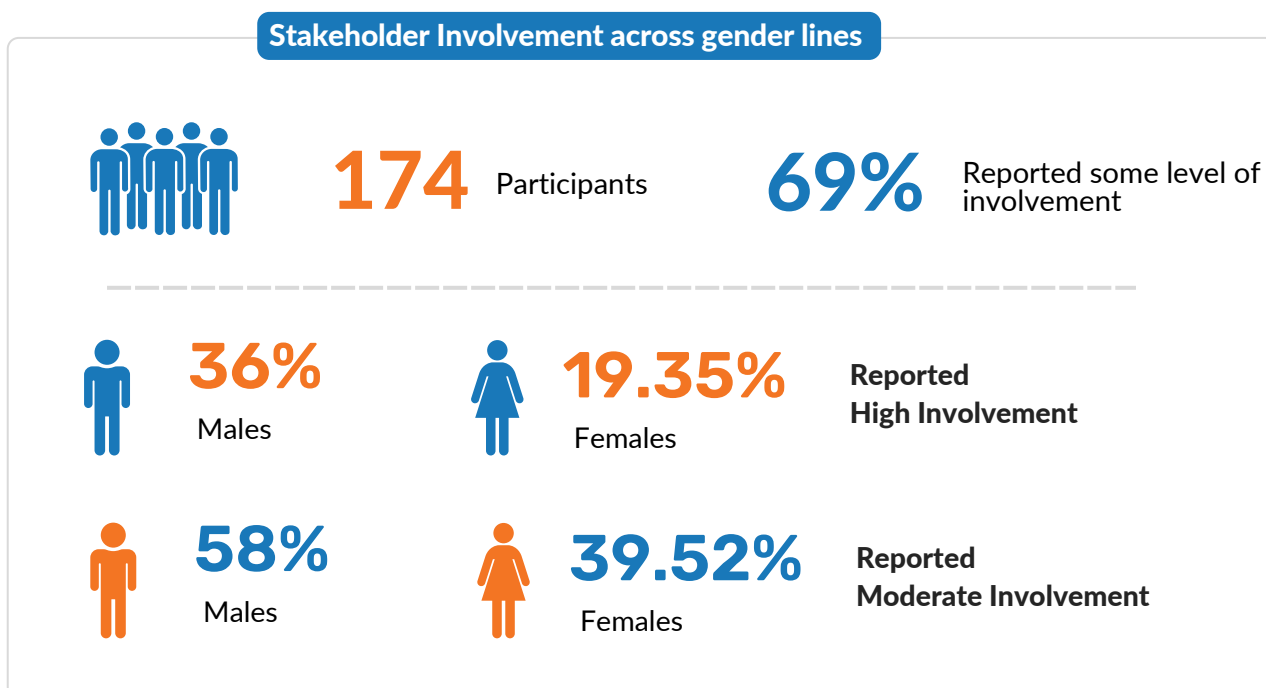
The evaluation aimed to assess the relevance, coherence, effectiveness, efficiency, impacts, and sustainability of the Youth and Urban Regeneration Somalia (YOURS) project, focusing on its interventions in Baidoa and Kismayu Districts in Somalia.

The YOURS project implemented a range of interventions targeting various demographics, including youth, non-youth, internally displaced persons (IDPs), and host communities, with differing levels of uptake observed across interventions. However, despite variations in uptake across interventions, training and capacity building emerged as the most popular and effective intervention, especially among males and non-youth. Housing upgrading and business development services were predominantly favored by females and non-youth.

Relevance

The YOURS project's relevance was evaluated through stakeholder involvement and contextual analysis, focusing on aligning project objectives with diverse stakeholder perspectives and national development priorities in Somalia as per the ToR. Key considerations included the project's conformity with beneficiary needs, country development goals, and alignment with Sustainable Development Goal 11 and the New Urban Agenda.

In regard to stakeholder Involvement, the study assessed stakeholder engagement across gender lines in the identification, design, implementation, and monitoring of urban basic services interventions. Among 174 participants, 69% reported some level of involvement, 36% of males and 19.35% of females reporting high involvement, with 58% of males and 39.52% of females indicating moderate involvement. Female respondents highlighted barriers to participation, with 33.06% reporting no involvement compared to 6% of males. Local Action Groups (LAGs), established by the mayor's office, played a pivotal role in enhancing community ownership and bridging gaps between authorities and project beneficiaries.

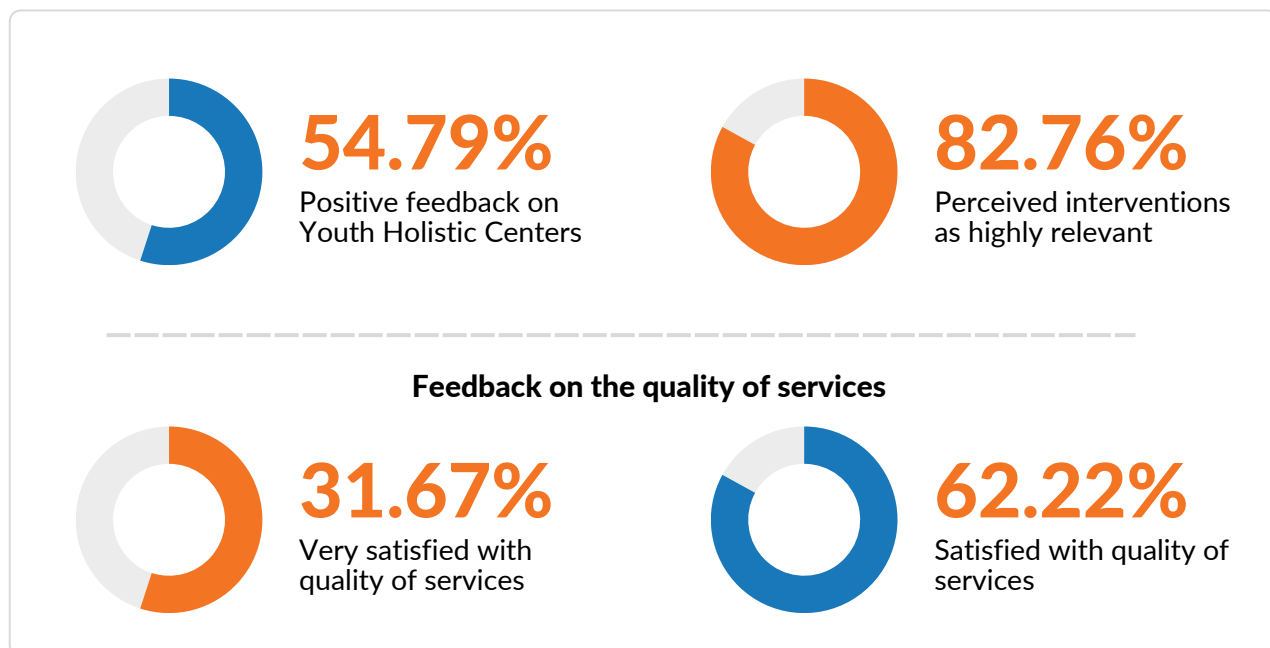


The community reported to have been extensively involved in the housing upgrading interventions. Notably though, there was higher participation among males compared to females, reflecting potential gender-related participation barriers. Both youth and non-youth groups demonstrated varying levels of engagement, underscoring the need for inclusive participation strategies.

The relevance of Youth Holistic Centers received positive feedback, with 54.79% of respondents rating services as "Incredibly good," highlighting the centers' significance in youth development. Further, training programs received appreciation for enhancing practical skills and employability among youth, supporting long-term community development and resilience. In addition, cash transfers were highly valued for providing immediate relief and supporting economic resilience among vulnerable households despite benefiting only a small percentage of respondents (1.67%).

Overall, a majority of respondents perceived YOURS interventions as highly relevant (82.76%), underscoring alignment with youth needs and community priorities. Both youth and non-youth groups reported similar perceptions of relevance.

Feedback on the quality of services provided by the YOURS project indicated high satisfaction levels, with 31.67% of respondents very satisfied and 62.22% satisfied overall. Dissatisfaction was minimal, with only one female respondent expressing dissatisfaction.

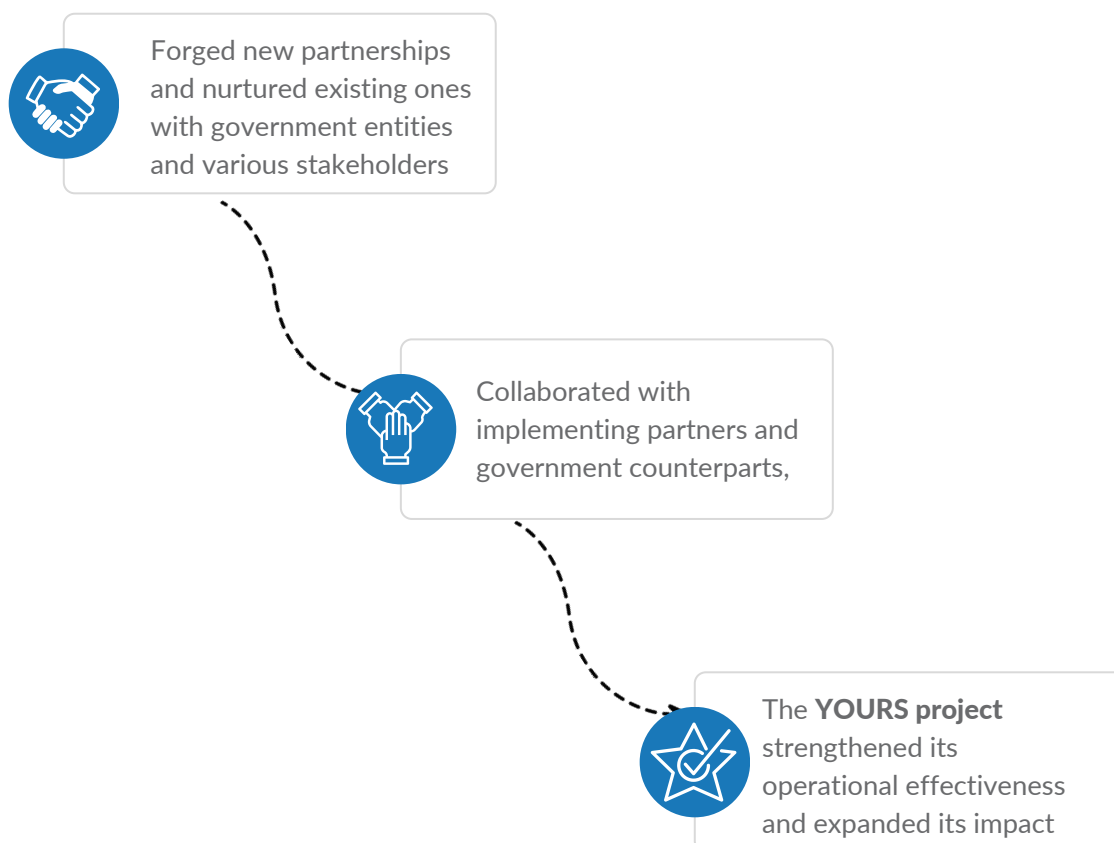


Coherence

The YOURS project demonstrated a strategic alignment with multiple Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), reflecting its commitment to poverty reduction, economic growth, reduced inequalities, sustainable urban development, inclusive societies, and effective partnerships. Specifically, the project's interventions were coherent with SDGs 1, 8, 10, 11, 16, and 17, which aim to ensure equal rights, promote economic activities, empower marginalized groups, enhance urban living conditions, foster inclusive decision-making, and encourage partnerships for development. Through training, capacity building, and infrastructure improvements, the YOURS project empowered disadvantaged urban communities by providing access to essential services and economic resources, thus contributing to the fulfillment of SDGs related to poverty eradication and social inclusion.



In terms of coordination and complementarity, the project forged new partnerships while nurturing existing ones, particularly with government entities and various stakeholders in Baidoa, Kismayo, and Mogadishu. By collaborating with implementing partners and government counterparts, such as ministries, councils, and community leaders, the YOURS project strengthened its operational effectiveness and expanded its impact.



Moreover, the project's connectivity and integration were evident through its alignment with other key development initiatives targeting youth empowerment, reintegration, and capacity building. By complementing projects like Youth Political Empowerment, Joint Programme on Youth Employment, Innovative Solutions for Displacement, and Midnimo Project, the YOURS project contributed to broader efforts aimed at revitalizing the Somali economy, enhancing governance mechanisms, and fostering sustainable peace and development.

Effectiveness

The YOURS project aimed to contribute to sustainable urban development by building resilient communities and enhancing access to urban services and livelihood opportunities. Two high-level indicators were used to measure progress: the percentage of the target population below the poverty line and the percentage with access to urban basic services closer to neighborhoods.

Findings regarding household income revealed a monthly mean per capita income of \$52.98, equivalent to \$1.77 per person per day. 68 percent remain below the 2017 poverty line of \$1.90 per day. According to World Bank reports, poverty in Somalia has risen from 71% in 2017 to 73% in 2023. However, statistically significant differences in monthly incomes were not observed between male and female-headed households or between youth and non-youth-headed households. Regarding access to urban basic services, 67% of the households reported improved access (59% of households reported improved access to water, 67% to education services, 64% to health facilities, and 77% to latrines), attributing these improvements to the interventions of the YOURS project.



\$52.98

Monthly mean per capita income



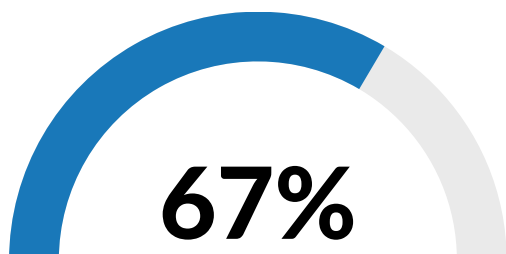
\$1.77

Per person per day



68%

Live below the 2017 poverty line of \$1.90 per day



Of the households reported improved access to basic urban services



Improved access to health facilities



Improved access to water



Improved access to latrines

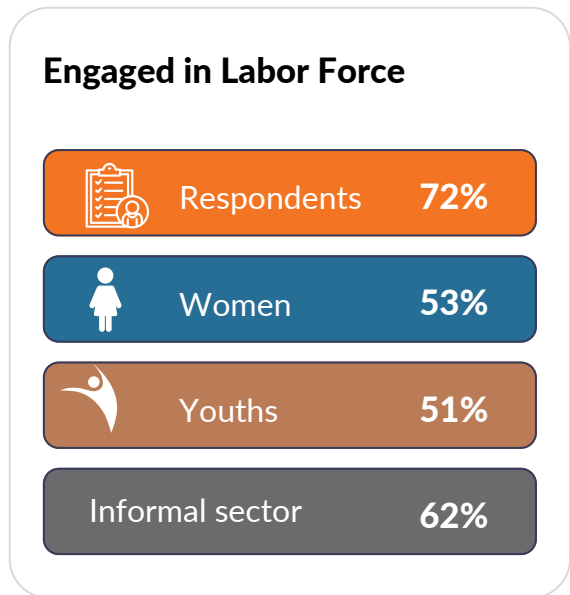
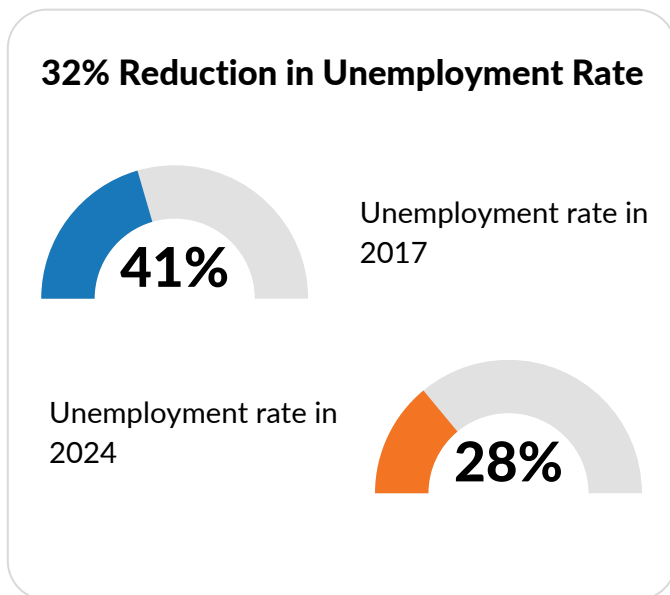


Education Services



Outcome 1 of the YOURS project aimed to increase employment opportunities in market sector-driven value chains under sustainable productive sectors, with a focus on poverty alleviation and socio-economic resilience. The study findings indicated a notable reduction in the unemployment rate among the targeted population, declining by 32% from 41% in 2017 to 28% in 2024. Within this demographic, 72% of respondents, including 53% women and 51% youths, were actively engaged in the labor force, spanning both formal and informal sectors. Specifically, 62% of individuals in the informal sector were involved in operating small kiosks and hairdressing shops.

The impact of the project extended to tangible outcomes, such as the creation of employment opportunities and the establishment of safe spaces for youth. For instance, the construction of BYH facilitated the delivery of various training modules to 550 youths, covering a range of essential skills for personal and professional development. Furthermore, to ensure the sustainability of BYH, a comprehensive Sustainability Strategy was devised, outlining governance models, income generation avenues, and service delivery mechanisms, all aimed at fostering continued impact and empowerment within the community.



Outcome 2 of the YOURS project aimed to amplify youth participation in peacebuilding and reconciliation efforts, as well as engagement in local governance and national decision-making processes, recognizing the pivotal role of Somalia's youthful population in driving societal change. Given that over 70% of Somalia's population is under 30 years old, empowering youth socially and economically is crucial for fostering inclusive and democratic societies. Youth organizations serve as vital platforms for magnifying youth voices and energies toward effecting social transformation at all levels of society.

To achieve these objectives, the YOURS project embarked on activities designed to bolster young people's involvement across social, economic, and political spheres. This included initiatives focused on peacebuilding and enhancing participation in governance processes, aiming to equip young people with the requisite skills while fortifying the capacity of local government bodies to engage youth more meaningfully.

A capacity-building manual tailored to the needs of youth organizations was developed, followed by training sessions involving 50 youths from 25 diverse networks in South-West State of Somalia. These networks encompassed various demographics, including youth activists, women-led groups, minority organizations, and individuals with disabilities, aiming to enhance their interaction with regional and federal governments on pertinent issues. Moreover, the project integrated peacebuilding sessions into all youth training initiatives, reaching a total of 500 youths. Topics covered ranged from the historical context of conflicts in Somalia to conflict resolution principles, governance structures, citizen participation, and patriotism.

Outcome 3 of the project aimed to enhance local social, economic, and spatial integration of households affected by displacement through urban regeneration and upgrading initiatives that expanded the delivery of basic services. Activities focused on closing the gap between Internally Displaced People (IDPs) and local government by bolstering response systems in informal settlements. This involved identifying intervention areas, analyzing land use, mapping urban services, and establishing local action groups. Additionally, the project conducted community dialogues, prepared sites, rehabilitated infrastructure, built permanent houses, and upgraded shelters.



50 Youths

From 25 diverse networks in South-West State of Somalia trained

500 Youths

Number of youths reached by the project that integrated peacebuilding sessions

Due to the concentration of IDP sites, the project prioritized urban regeneration efforts in areas like the ADC zone in Baidoa, aligning planning activities with ongoing projects to maximize effectiveness. In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the project assessed handwashing facilities and implemented improvements, benefiting 3,272 students in IDP and urban poor communities. Collaboration with other organizations enhanced water provision and social protection for vulnerable households, with 250 families receiving cash transfers to mitigate the pandemic's economic impact.

Furthermore, the project contributed to legislative efforts by supporting the drafting of the Urban Land Management Law and partnering with organizations like the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC). Community dialogue sessions and awareness campaigns on Housing, Land, and Property (HLP) rights were conducted to promote social cohesion and raise awareness among beneficiaries.



3,272

Students benefitted from handwashing facilities



250

Families received cash transfers to mitigate the pandemic's economic impact.

Infrastructure upgrades included rehabilitating schools, constructing public spaces like soccer fields, and supporting households in shelter rehabilitation. Notably, 200 permanent houses were constructed in the ADC area of Baidoa, benefiting families with improved living conditions. Emergency responses to events like drought included providing water and cash assistance to affected households, demonstrating the project's commitment to addressing immediate needs alongside long-term urban development goals

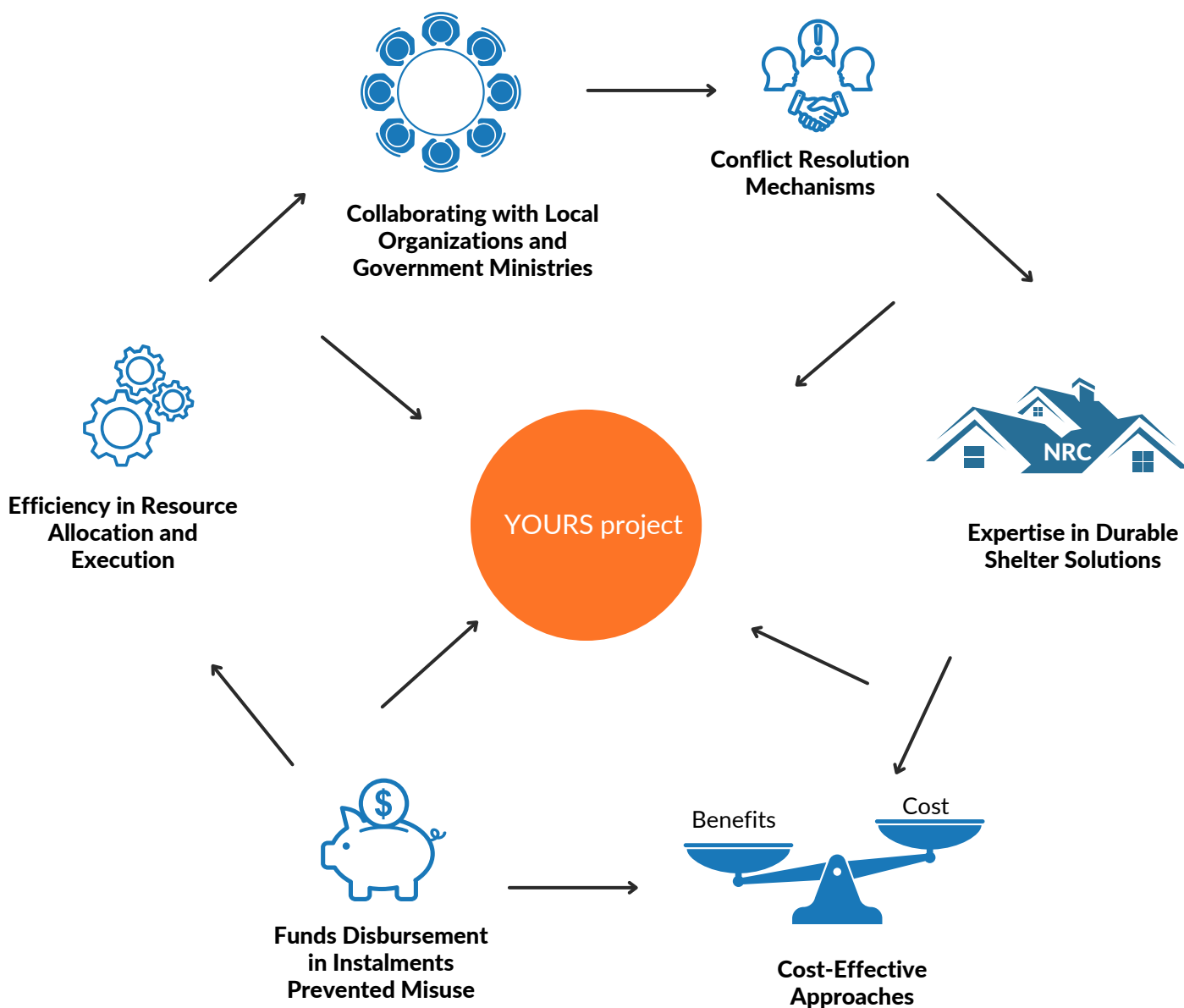


200

Permanent houses were constructed in the ADC area of Baidoa

Efficiency

The study evaluated the YOURS project's efficiency in resource allocation and execution, considering both costs and benefits. Local partnerships played a crucial role, especially in areas with security challenges like Baidoa and Kismayu. Collaborating with local organizations and government ministries ensured timely implementation, optimizing time and financial resources. UN-Habitat's capacity in project design and implementation was commendable, while entrusting the housing component to NRC proved strategic due to their expertise in durable shelter solutions. Cost-effective approaches like owner-driven construction and direct material procurement contributed to efficient resource utilization. Funds disbursement in instalments prevented misuse, and conflict resolution mechanisms ensured proper allocation. Feedback from respondents highlighted overall satisfaction with project implementation, with suggestions for further improvements to enhance effectiveness.



Impacts

An impact evaluation of the YOURS project assessed its social, economic, and environmental dimensions, examining changes in societal dynamics, job creation, and ecological implications. Social impact was witnessed through improved access to basic urban services. Notably, the project reduced the time needed to access basic urban services. Before the project, both males and females faced significant challenges in accessing clean water, pit latrines, and healthcare within reasonable time frames. However, after implementation, there were substantial improvements across genders.

For instance, the percentage of males accessing clean water within 30 minutes increased from 5.6% to 53.7%, while for females, it increased from 36.5% to 51.6%. Similar positive trends were observed for access to pit latrines and healthcare, indicating the project's success in enhancing urban service accessibility.

The economic impact of the YOURS project was limited in terms of cash transfers. Only a small percentage (1.67%) of the respondents reported receiving cash transfers from the project, indicating a low level of direct economic benefit for the targeted communities.

Sustainability

Sustainability was evaluated through institutional capacity, community ownership, and long-term viability of interventions. Strong partnerships with government ministries and local organizations ensured alignment with country systems and expanded project activities, enhancing sustainability. For example, the Baidoa youth center, represents a sustainable hub for marginalized communities. A comprehensive Sustainability Strategy and an Agreement of Cooperation with the Ministry of Youth and Sports was drafted to ensure the center's long-term viability. Community ownership was fostered through involvement in project design, implementation, and monitoring, with 88% of respondents confident in community committees' ability to maintain infrastructure post-project. Local Action Groups ensured inclusivity and acted as a bridge between authorities and beneficiaries and will key in carrying forward the project's activities and promoting peacebuilding and long-term impact.

Cross Cutting

The YOURS project addressed cross-cutting issues such as gender, youth empowerment, and human rights to ensure comprehensive community development.



Youth: The project adopted a youth-led approach, empowering young people to participate in all stages of project activities. Extensive consultations and partnerships with youth-led organizations were conducted to ensure their needs and priorities were addressed, fostering long-term sustainability. Youth forums and councils provided platforms for inclusive participation in local governance mechanisms.



Gender: Somalia's Gender Inequality Index was among the worst globally, with deep-rooted structural impediments hindering gender equality. The project recognized the importance of addressing gender disparities by understanding the unique challenges faced by women and girls, especially internally displaced women. Through empowerment initiatives and gender-responsive planning, the project aimed to promote social and political inclusion, ensure equal access to resources, and address gender-based biases comprehensively.



HLP Rights: The project focused on capacity building and empowerment of beneficiary communities, particularly refugees, IDPs, and returnees, regarding their rights to land and property. Training sessions and assistance in obtaining legal rights aimed to contribute to durable solutions and empower local actors to advocate for their rights effectively, particularly in resolving disputes related to land and property matters.

Conclusions

Based on the evaluation findings, YOURS project achieved its objective of contributing to sustainable urban development through building resilient communities and providing urban services and livelihood opportunities for residents and marginalized groups. YOURS was the first durable solution housing project. By providing the IDPs with plots and constructing permanent houses for them, this empowered them economically by providing collateral through which they are accessing capital to start various businesses in the neighborhood. Additionally, the project enhanced employability of the youths through literacy, numeracy, digital, life skills and BDS impacted greatly on their incomes and livelihoods. The strong partnerships developed with state and non-state partners and the PPPs developed will contribute greatly to the sustainability of basic service provision to the targeted communities. The strengthening of local governance structures translated into increased access to social and basic services. These findings validate the project causal pathways as stipulated in the Theory of Change. Mainstreaming of durable solution strategies into routine government functions emerged as the greatest success for the project scoring highly in respect to both impact and sustainability therefore contributing to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals as well as national priorities.

Key Lessons Learned



Context Adaptation and Flexibility – The YOURS project demonstrated its ability to adapt to the changing context of the pandemic and droughts, which worsened the security and livelihoods of the target population. The project revised some of its outputs and indicators accordingly, and also reprogrammed some of its activities to respond to emerging needs and opportunities, such as the cash transfers and the youth organization support that worked well to address the life-saving basic needs of target beneficiaries. This flexibility ensured the relevance and effectiveness of the project in a volatile environment.



Synergy between Training and Housing Activities –The YOURS project demonstrated a synergistic link between local TOTs in the construction sector and the success of housing construction activities, along with the associated benefits. TOTs provided supervision and imparted knowledge and skills to trainees, preparing them for work in the construction industry. Concurrently, housing activities offered trainees opportunities to apply their skills and earn income. Moreover, these housing activities contributed to providing permanent and dignified shelters for the most vulnerable households, while also improving urban infrastructure and the environment. This dual approach not only enhanced the trainees' practical experience and financial stability but also fostered community development and resilience.



Achievement and Challenges of HLP Activities –The YOURS project successfully secured 200 title deeds for permanent housing beneficiaries, ensuring their legal ownership and protection from future eviction. This accomplishment was achieved through strong collaboration and advocacy with the government and community leaders, as well as through sensitization and awareness-raising efforts among the beneficiaries. However, the HLP activities also encountered challenges, such as delays in the issuance of title deeds, the complexity of the land tenure system, and resistance from some landlords and tenants to the formalization process. These challenges and lessons learnt should inform future HLP interventions in Somalia.



Innovation and Use of Local Materials in Housing Design and Construction – The YOURS project showcased the innovation and use of local materials in the housing design and construction, which was appreciated by the government and the community. The housing design was based on a participatory approach that involved the beneficiaries and the local authorities and incorporated their preferences and feedback. The housing construction used local materials, such as stabilized soil blocks, which reduced the cost and environmental impact of the project. The use of local materials also created a demand and a market for the local producers, who were trained and supported by the project.



Infrastructure Planning and Implementation - Conducting comprehensive feasibility and contextual studies is crucial before embarking on infrastructural projects to address issues such as land ownership and spatial requirements, thus preventing construction delays. Implementing phased construction with trained contractors ensures high-quality outputs and effective supervision. Additionally, decentralizing quality assurance for construction to state-level trained engineers and site foremen can minimize logistical costs and enhance local ownership. This approach also ensures close supervision and compliance with standards.



Owner/Community-Driven vs. Contractor Approaches in Infrastructure Projects - Community-driven projects are often more efficient in terms of quality and cost but require more time to complete compared to contractor-driven projects. It is crucial to consider time aspects when designing such projects to avoid disappointing donors with extension requests during the implementation period.



Educational Strategies and Context Adaptation - Making provision practical lessons during trainings, providing sensitization session and adapting curricula to Somalia's unique context are innovative strategies to complement resourcing of libraries in building a reading culture in education centres.



Visibility and Communication of Project Results and Achievements - The YOURS project did not fully address the strategic need of visibility and communication of the project results and achievements, which should be improved in future projects. The project had a low profile in terms of media coverage, social media presence, and dissemination of the project documents and reports to the local communities, resource. This limited the exposure and recognition of the project among the wider public, the donors, and the potential partners. The project should develop, resource and implement a communication and visibility strategy that can enhance the awareness and appreciation of the project impact and innovation.

Recommendations



a) To enhance the employability and income generation potential of trainees and prevent the oversupply of certain skills in the market, it is crucial to offer a diverse range of vocational skills beyond the construction sector. These skills should be selected based on their relevance and demand in the local market. It is also essential to expand the scope and quality of the training programs in the Youth Hubs to cover a range of technical skills relevant to the construction industry, such as masonry, electrical work, and plumbing, using the construction manual developed by the YOURS project as a guide. Additionally, ensuring that the training duration, curriculum, and quality standards are adequate and appropriate for the target population is essential.



b) To create a win-win situation for the project beneficiaries and the community, and foster social cohesion and integration, future programming should link the training and housing activities to create synergy and mutual benefits by providing the trainees with opportunities to apply their skills and earn income while contributing to the provision of shelter and infrastructure for the most vulnerable households.



c) To enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of future HLP interventions in Somalia, strong collaboration with the government and community stakeholders is encouraged given the success registered by the YOURS project through this model. Alongside this approach, the beneficiaries must be sensitized on the benefits and procedures of the formalization process and the accompanying delays that may be encountered due to complexities of the land tenure system and varied acceptance durations by stakeholders



d) To reduce the cost and environmental impact of housing construction while promoting the local economy and encouraging stakeholder ownership and participation, future projects should prioritize the use of local materials in housing design and construction. This approach should involve beneficiaries and local authorities through a participatory process. Additionally, training and supporting local producers of these materials will help create demand and a sustainable market for them.



e) To enhance the recognition and reputation of the project and the organization, and to attract more funding and partnership opportunities for future initiatives, it is crucial to develop, resource, and implement a comprehensive communication and visibility strategy. This strategy should aim to increase awareness and appreciation of the project's impact and innovations among the wider public, donors, and potential partners. Utilize media coverage, maintain an active social media presence, and disseminate project documents and reports to effectively showcase the project's results and achievements.



f) To leverage the local expertise and resources and empower the local trainers to become the agents of change, future projects should consider scaling-up the use of locally trained trainers of trainers (ToTs) to provide context-adapted training solutions and ensure the sustainability and replication of the project approach and methodology.



g) Establish linkages and partnerships with local construction companies, contractors, and cooperatives to facilitate the placement of trained youth in apprenticeships, internships, or employment opportunities. This will provide practical sessions and hands-on exercises within training programs, enhancing the trainees' learning outcomes and preparing them for real-world challenges in the construction sector.



h) Future projects should prioritize standardizing indicator definitions and institutionalizing M&E practices to enhance organizational learning across projects. The YOURS project has yielded valuable insights that have not been documented, which could inform future programming. Therefore, a shift from traditional M&E to a more comprehensive Monitoring, Evaluation, Adapting, and Learning (MEAL) approach is highly recommended.

INTRODUCTION

This evaluation report offers concrete findings and recommendations to project management and partners, including UN-Habitat, NRC, SOYVA, and the donor (SIDA), regarding the extent to which the YOURS project has achieved its expected results. These results pertain to contributing to sustainable urban development, building resilient communities, and providing urban services and livelihood opportunities for residents especially for marginalized youths, women and displacement affected groups.

This section provides a brief description of the intervention's background and context, the mandate for the evaluation, and outlines the overall objectives, purpose, and scope of the evaluation.

Background and Context

Although there has been a momentum in addressing Durable Solutions at national, regional, and local level, there has been - in fact - no reduction of the number of displacement affected people in recent years. Currently, the government figures indicate more than 2.6 million internally displaced people, around 1.2 million more than three years ago. Intention surveys and other studies undertaken in Mogadishu in the last two years suggest that up to 80% of IDPs do not intend to return to their place of origin in the foreseeable future for various reasons. Livelihood opportunities, in-stability, and access to basic service are being cited as the main reasons for continued stay. However, most IDPs live in peri-urban and peripheral settlements that lack basic services, especially in the WASH, education, health sectors, and offer little more livelihood other than small shops and occasional jobs. Re-settling from congested inner-city areas to remote vast areas or direct settling to designated areas during the time of arrival has been a preferred option by many political actors across Somalia but poses several constraints and challenges. The settlements do not contribute to reintegration of displaced communities into the urban fabric, but rather contribute to further urban sprawl and spatial marginalization.



2.6 Million

Internally Displaced People
around 1.2 million more than
three years ago



80%

IDPs do not intend to return to
their place of origin in the
foreseeable future

While re-settling and return remain among the viable options for displacement affected people, it has to be noted that experiences from current re-settling projects indicate higher amounts of infrastructure and overhead costs. For example, to access available land, prepare, coordinate infrastructure and ensure that the re-settlers and returnees receive other relevant support such as security, tenure, and social services including access to livelihood opportunities in acceptable distance from main social amenities. Government institutions so far have limited capacity to manage large-scale projects although some efforts are ongoing and supported by UN agencies

including UN-HABITAT to upscale interventions by utilizing a combination of land value sharing and planning tools in conjunction with community-based planning and private sector engagement such as the Saameynta project launched in March 2022. However, the bulge of displacement continues to be experienced in the in urban built-up areas and will likely continue to increase in the next years with bits of spatial differentiation as per resettlement locations chosen by the government. Therefore, the focus of the YOURS program was directed upon social, economic, and spatial re-integration by utilizing the existing infrastructure facilities, primarily in the so-called ADC area in Baidoa-South, by expanding and improving basic urban services that benefit hosting communities at the same time. This approach takes into account the time-distance ratio as a relevant barrier for Somali households to access services such as school and health facilities that are more than 30 min away. It also contributes to the Environmental Sustainability and Climate Resilience Strategy by pursuing the concept of cities of short distances, promotion of local building materials for permanent housing and temporary shelter and by strengthening urban resilience of government authorities and communities affected by displacement. Emergency response to the current drought situation is in-built into this approach through reimbursement funds originally designed for the implementation of pilots coming up from an architectural design competition.

Project Overview and Description

The Youth and Urban Regeneration Somalia (YOURS) Project started in July 2020 and is expected to complete all its activities around April and May of 2024. YOURS project was initially designed to be a three-year programme (June-2020 to May-2023) implemented in South-Central Somalia, specifically in Mogadishu, Baidoa, Kismayo and Dollow. In the first two years (2020 and 2021) of implementation, the project experienced fundamental challenges on the ground by the compounded factors of the COVID-19 pandemic, political impasse, and protracted droughts. Many of the scheduled activities were drastically delayed, severely impacting Outcome 3, particularly the construction of 200 houses in Baidoa under the urban regeneration component. Subsequently, a project variation was agreed with the donor that amended some of the planned activities (such as Output 1.3: BDS services), removed the implementation of the mid-term evaluation and extended the project duration by one year. In May 2023, YOURS project received the first No-Cost-Extension (NCE) of 7 months (Jun- Dec 2023) followed by a second 5 months NCE in December 2023, to complete the remaining activities.

YOURS is funded by Embassy of Sweden with a total budget of 40 million SEK or \$4.6 Million USD. In line with UN-Habitat's mandate and the country strategy for Somalia, YOURS project was designed to contribute to reduced spatial urban inequalities by promoting sustainable urban regeneration, youth development and re-integration of marginalized groups through capacity building of government institutions and socio-economic resilience of urban communities. The project consists of two main components namely, Youth and Livelihoods, and Urban Regeneration and four corresponding outcomes summarized below.

1. Increased employment opportunities in market sector driven value chains under the sustainable productive sectors.
2. Increased youth participation in peacebuilding and reconciliation efforts including engagement in local governance and national decision-making processes.
3. Enhanced local social, economic, and spatial integration of displacement affected households through urban regeneration and upgrading projects that expand the delivery of basic services.
4. Improved/strengthened capacity of local authorities to implement durable solutions and youth development initiatives across Somalia.

Project objectives, intended outcomes, outputs and approach

The main objective of YOURS project was to contribute to sustainable urban development by building resilience communities and providing urban services and livelihood opportunities for residents and marginalized groups. The project consists of two main components namely, Youth and Livelihoods and Urban Regeneration. The two components have four corresponding outcomes and related outputs as summarized below.



Outcome 1: Increased employment opportunities in market sector driven value chains under the sustainable productive sectors.

Output 1.1: Employability enhanced through demand-based skills development in the selected value chains and productive sectors across Somalia.

Output 1.2: Employment opportunities created through the use of labour-intensive approaches in infrastructure rehabilitation and development across the selected value chains and productive sectors.

Output 1.3: Safe and generative spaces for youth are constructed to support holistic youth development.



Outcome 2: Increased youth participation in peacebuilding and reconciliation efforts including engagement in local governance and national decision-making processes.

Output 2.1: Enhanced capacities of young people to become agents of change for peacebuilding and urban development priorities.

Output 2.2: Strengthened capacity of local and Government authorities to engage youth networks and existing youth structures at regional/local level governments to ensure youth inclusive policies and practices are in place.



Outcome 3: Enhanced local social, economic, and spatial integration of displacement affected households through urban regeneration and upgrading projects that expand the delivery of basic services.

Output 3.1: Local authorities and local leaders (e.g. village leaders, area leader, councillors where available, parliamentarians) are supported on participatory, inclusive, evidence-based planning and prioritization of city and community level interventions and area-based coordination mechanism.

Output 3.2: IDPs and vulnerable communities have unimpeded access to basic urban services including water and sanitation, housing and health and support provided to design, implement and monitor area-based, community led interventions that support the living conditions of displacement affected households and host communities.

Output 3.3: Strengthened regional and city authorities' urban resilience actions (action plans) to include basic needs of migrants in post crises and recovery phase.

Output 3.4: Urban vulnerable population have access to direct cash transfer kitty to cushion them from the economic impact as a result of crisis.



Outcome 4: Improved/strengthened capacity of local authorities to implement durable solutions and youth development initiatives across Somalia.

Output 4.1: Scaled-up capacities towards inclusive cities through knowledge exchange between cities and communities at national level to promote urban solutions.

Output 4.2: Innovative and creative solutions for fit-for-purpose Shelter and housing focusing upon local building culture, climate change adaptation and livelihood promoted.

PURPOSE, OBJECTIVES, AND SCOPE OF EVALUATION

Mandate for the Evaluation

The evaluation serves a dual purpose: to promote accountability and facilitate learning. Its primary objective is to enhance accountability by providing UN-Habitat, donors, and relevant stakeholders with an unbiased assessment of whether the project achieved its expected outcomes and to clarify the underlying reasons. Furthermore, in line with UN-Habitat's commitment to improving programs, the evaluation will offer valuable insights into identifying effective strategies, identifying areas for improvement, sharing operational experiences, and highlighting both opportunities and challenges. The findings, lessons learned, and recommendations generated by the evaluation are expected to inform decision-making processes regarding future programming and the implementation of projects and programs in similar contexts.

Objective(s)

The aim of this assignment was to evaluate YOURS project performance against its objectives and expected accomplishments namely:

- 1 Increased employment opportunities in market sector driven value chains under the sustainable productive sectors.
- 2 Increased youth participation in peacebuilding and reconciliation efforts including engagement in local governance and national decision-making processes.
- 3 Enhanced local social, economic, and spatial integration of displacement affected households through urban regeneration and upgrading projects that expand the delivery of basic services.
- 4 Improved/strengthened capacity of local authorities to implement durable solutions and youth development initiatives across Somalia.

Specifically, the evaluation was to:

- i. Assess the performance of the Project in terms achieving the planned targeted results at objective, expected accomplishments (outcomes) and output levels.
- ii. Assess if the project demonstrated value-for-money, in terms of relevance, efficiency, effectiveness, sustainability, impact and coherence of the Project.
- iii. Assess appropriateness planning, implementation working modalities, coordination, cooperation, partnerships, and management; and how they contributed to achieving the planned results of the Project.

- iv. Assess the effects of Covid-19 on the implementation of the project.
- v. Assess how cross cutting themes of gender, equity, human rights, democracy, good governance, DAC (Displacement Affected Communities) rights, social safeguards and environmental sustainability were considered in the planning and implementation of the project.
- vi. Identify lessons and give recommendations for improving future planning programming and implementation of similar projects, in the same context.

Theory of Change

YOURS Project is based on the premise that **IF** the Somalia Country Programme through YOURS,

- leverages the institutional knowledge on attainment of sustainable urban development,
- provides for technical assistance and policy advice to local, state, and national government institutions,
- localizes the specific SDG agenda and
- supports innovations and partnerships through a holistic approach, closely aligned with the national and regional priorities,

THEN Somalia's institutions and communities will be more resilient to deal with external shocks, provide better urban services and livelihood opportunities for residents and especially for marginalized Youth, women and displacement affected groups, and societies will be more cohesive and stable; resulting towards sustainable urbanisation across Somalia that leads to better quality of life for all. The evaluation targets all the stakeholders involved in the YOURS project from the design and planning to implementation phases.

The YOURS project involved various stakeholders throughout its identification, design, planning, prioritization, and implementation phases. Key stakeholders included:

- UN Habitat and implementing partners such as NRC and SOYVA: These staff members oversaw the day-to-day execution of project activities, such as conducting training sessions, facilitating community engagement, and managing shelter upgrade initiatives.
- Local and federal government representatives: Officials from ministries such as the Ministry of Public Works, Housing, and Transport, the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs, and the Ministry of Planning, Investment, and Economic Development endorsed the project and provided policy and regulatory support.
- Community focal persons: Elders, religious leaders, women leaders, and youth representatives participated in identifying target beneficiaries, selecting shelter upgrade sites, and monitoring and providing feedback on the project's progress.



Direct beneficiaries: These included households in informal settlements who received improved shelters, and individuals—especially youths and women—who participated in vocational and life skills training, received tool kits and start-up grants, and engaged in income-generating activities related to the construction sector.

Scope for the evaluation

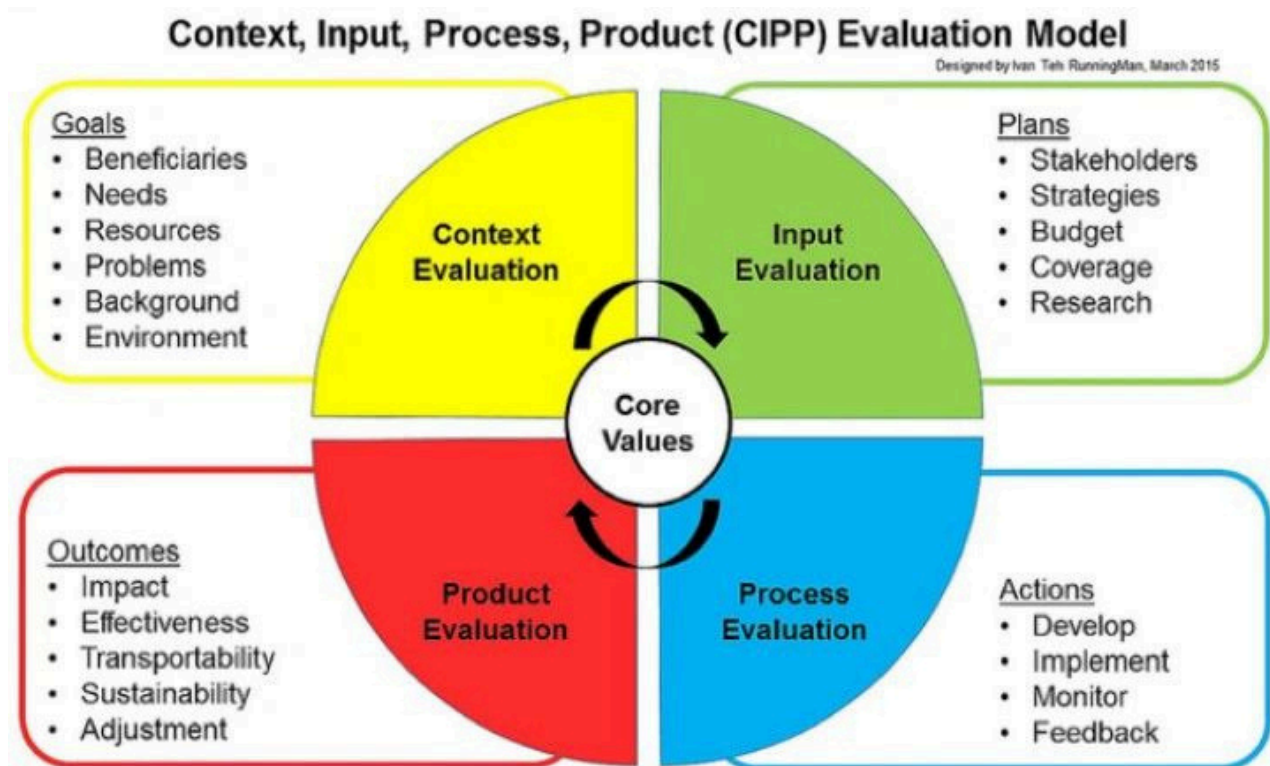
The evaluation has been conducted across multiple geographical sites in Somalia, focusing on specific regions within South-Central Somalia, specifically in Mogadishu, Baidoa, and Kismayo. The evaluation covered the entire life of YOURS project from July 2020 to May 2024 and involved all the stakeholders that were involved in the identification, design, planning, prioritization, and implementation phases. These included UN-Habitat and its implementing partners (NRC and SOYVA), Government (both state and federal levels), community leaders and YOURS beneficiaries.

APPROACH AND METHODOLOGY

This evaluation was carried out in line with the United Nations Evaluation Group (UNEG) Norms and Standards for evaluation in the Nations System. It employed the six UNEG criteria: relevance, coherence, efficiency, effectiveness, impact, and sustainability, which are compatible with the OECD/DAC criteria.

The evaluation applied two approaches.

1. Results-based approach (Theory of Change Approach) to demonstrate how the project was supposed to work to achieve what was planned.
2. Context Input Process Product (CIPP) approach to assess the project's implementation structures, management systems and procedures, collaboration, coordination, and partnerships.



The study employed a blended methodology, incorporating a participatory framework that integrated both quantitative and qualitative approaches to ascertain the enduring and cross-generational results and achievements stemming from YOURS initiatives. This involved data collection from diverse sources including review of relevant project documents, key informant interviews and focus group discussions with implementing partners, key national stakeholders, project staff of UN-Habitat. Additionally, quantitative data was collected from YOURS beneficiary through household level surveys. Field visits were conducted to assess activities in the project implementation sites. These provided insight into both the scope, depth and range of activities.

Limitations of the evaluation

There were no major challenges experienced during the assignment apart from time constraint. Nevertheless, below are some of the limitations and how we delimited them:

- There were difficulties tracing some direct project beneficiaries especially the training participants since some of the interventions happened a year ago and had relocated or changed phone numbers. The field team will work closely with program teams and focal persons to trace them using alternative means of communication, and community networks. The ones that were not reachable at all were replaced.
- Some project activities, such as cash transfers and various community-oriented trainings, were conducted a long time ago, and some respondents struggled to recall details about these activities, potentially introducing recall bias. To mitigate this, the evaluation team thoroughly probed the respondents and allowed them ample time to process the information and remember the activities in question. Additionally, the team triangulated interview data with desk reviews and narrative report data synthesis to further reduce the risks of recall bias.
- Since participation in the interviews was voluntary, some stakeholders were reluctant to participate or even share their honest opinions and feedback on the project, due to fear of reprisal, cultural norms, or power dynamics. The team, anchored in past experiences and success, will build trust and rapport with the stakeholders such as deploying trusted local field teams, ensuring confidentiality and anonymity of the data collected, and using triangulation methods to cross-check and validate the information from different sources.
- Some of the targeted KIIs were not available during the time of this study due to other competing engagements
- Lack of performance indicator reference sheets for YOURS project to assist with decoding of YOURS indicators through standardized definition. As a result, the indicators definition varied from one KII to another.

EVALUATION FINDINGS

To understand the relevance of the project, the respondents were queried on the extent of alignment between the YOURS interventions with the needs of the youths, the community, and the country at large.

The YOURS project implemented an extensive suite of interventions that were aimed at improving the livelihoods and infrastructure of the communities in Baidoa and Kismayu Districts in Somalia. This suite of interventions was targeted at varied demographics with some targeting the youth, non-youth, IDPs and host communities which resulted in varying levels of uptake of the different interventions. The interventions that were deployed comprise of;

i. Construction of New Housing and Housing Upgrading

Many respondents noted improvements in housing and shelter, which provided them with a sense of security, stability, and overall enhancement of living standards. This was well aligned with the critical needs for permanent and adequate housing amongst the respondents and contributed to their physical safety and a better quality of life, especially in the IDP camps.

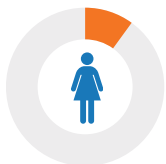
The construction of new housing had 25 participants, with 13 males and 12 females. Males benefitted at a higher proportion of 26% than females at 9.68%. In contrast however, housing upgrading had no male beneficiaries but instead recorded a total 16 females, accounting for 12.9% of all the female respondents in the evaluation. Youth participation in housing upgrading was 13.46%, slightly higher than non-youth at 7.38%.

Construction of New Housing



26%

Males benefitted at a higher proportion



9.68%

Females benefitted at a lower proportion

Housing upgrading



12.9%

Youth participation



7.38%

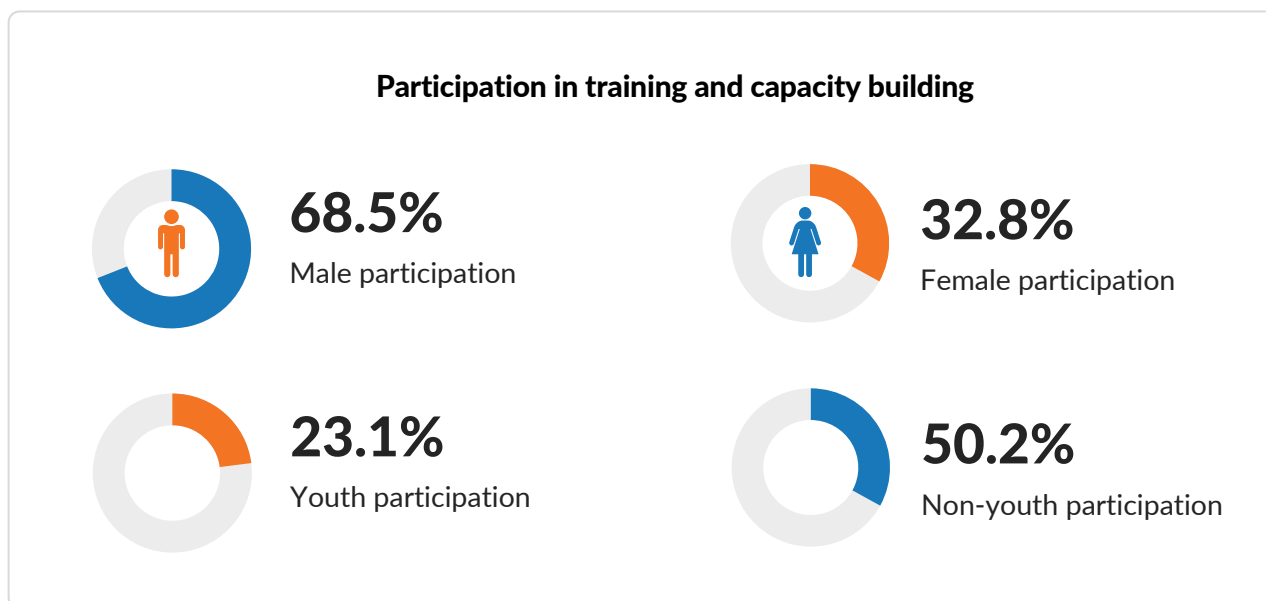
Non-youth participation

ii. Water Trucking and Community Infrastructures

Water trucking was a moderately received intervention, with only 17 participants (4 males and 13 females) reporting to have benefitted from the intervention. The male beneficiaries amounted to 8%, compared to females at 10.48% of the sampled respondents. This was similar to beneficiaries on community infrastructures that had only 4 female participants (3.23%) and no male participants. This intervention was not taken up by any youth.

iii. Training and Capacity Building

Training and capacity building emerged as the most popular intervention, with a substantial 78 participants (41 females and 37 males). This intervention had the highest uptake, especially among males (68.5%) compared to females (32.8%). The high male participation rate indicates a strong interest or need among males for skill development and capacity building, which could be vital for employment and business opportunities. Youth had a lower participation rate at 23.1% compared to non-youth at 50.2%, suggesting a significant demand for skill development among non-youth.



iv. Cash Transfers and Cash for Work

Cash for work had a low uptake, with only 6 participants (4 females and 2 males), indicating a relatively low preference or opportunity for this intervention. Cash transfers, however, were more popular, involving 23 participants (17 females and 6 males), highlighting a slightly higher female participation rate (13.6%) compared to males (11.1%). Youth had a higher participation rate in cash transfers at 23.1%, compared to non-youth at 6.6%. Only 5.8% of youth were engaged in the cash for work interventions and no non-youth participants being engaged.

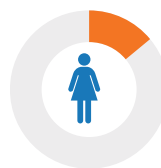
Understandably, document reviews indicated that cash transfers were targeted at 250 households with each household receiving \$210 for 3 months between May to July 2021. Perhaps the extended period between this end evaluation and the time of receipt of the cash transfers may have inhibited recall by some of the respondents.

Uptake of Cash Transfers



11.1%

Male participation



13.6%

Female participation



23.1%

Youth participation



6.6%

Non-youth participation

v. Business Development Services and Infrastructure Rehabilitation

Business development services saw significant uptake with 33 participants (23 females and 10 males), registering an almost equal interest amongst both genders (females at 18.4% and males at 18.5%). Infrastructure rehabilitation had 11 participants (9 females and 2 males), indicating that this intervention was more favored by females (7.2%) compared to males (3.7%). Youth had a higher participation rate in infrastructure rehabilitation at 9.6% compared to non-youth at 3.3%. Across all the interventions, training and capacity building emerged as the most popular intervention, especially among males and non-youth, while housing upgrading, and business development services were predominantly taken up by females and non-youth.

This discussion of findings is arranged thematically with discussions focusing on the Relevance, Coherence, Effectiveness, Efficiency, Impacts, Sustainability and cross cutting issues for the YOURS project based on the suite of interventions that were deployed.

Relevance

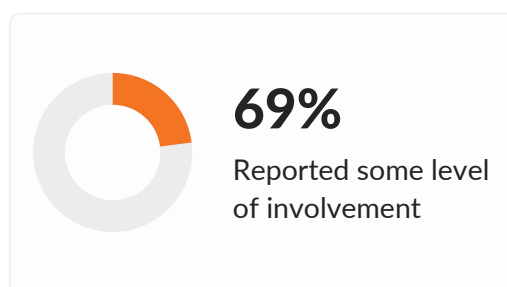
The relevance of the project was evaluated through stakeholder involvement and contextual analysis. The study examined the extent to which influential individuals were engaged in shaping the project's framework, ensuring alignment with the diverse perspectives and interests of those directly impacted. Additionally, the study assessed the project's significance in fostering positive transformations in both the youth demographic and the broader scope of urban regeneration initiatives in Somalia. Key questions included the project's consistency with beneficiaries' requirements, country needs, national development goals, and the policies of partners, donors, and UN-Habitat. We also evaluated whether the implementation strategy aligned with and responded to Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 11 and the New Urban Agenda (NUA). Furthermore, the evaluation focused on the program's relevance to the needs and priorities of the participating country and city, and its responsiveness to their urban development plans. The identification, design, and implementation process of activities and pilot initiatives were scrutinized to determine the involvement of beneficiaries and the inclusion of vulnerable groups in the project design and execution.

Stakeholder Involvement

1. Involvement in the identification, design, implementation, and monitoring of the urban basic services interventions

The level of involvement in the YOURS project interventions varied significantly between male and female respondents. Among the 174 participants, 69% reported some level of involvement, 36% of males and 19.4% of females reported being incredibly involved in the identification, design, implementation, and monitoring of urban basic services interventions. A larger proportion, 58% of males and 39.5% of females, felt they were involved to some extent, leading

to an overall involvement rate of 69%. Notably, 33.1% of females reported not being involved at all, compared to just 6% of males. Additionally, 6.5% of females were unsure about their level of involvement.



Were you involved in identification, design, implementation, and monitoring of the urban basic services interventions

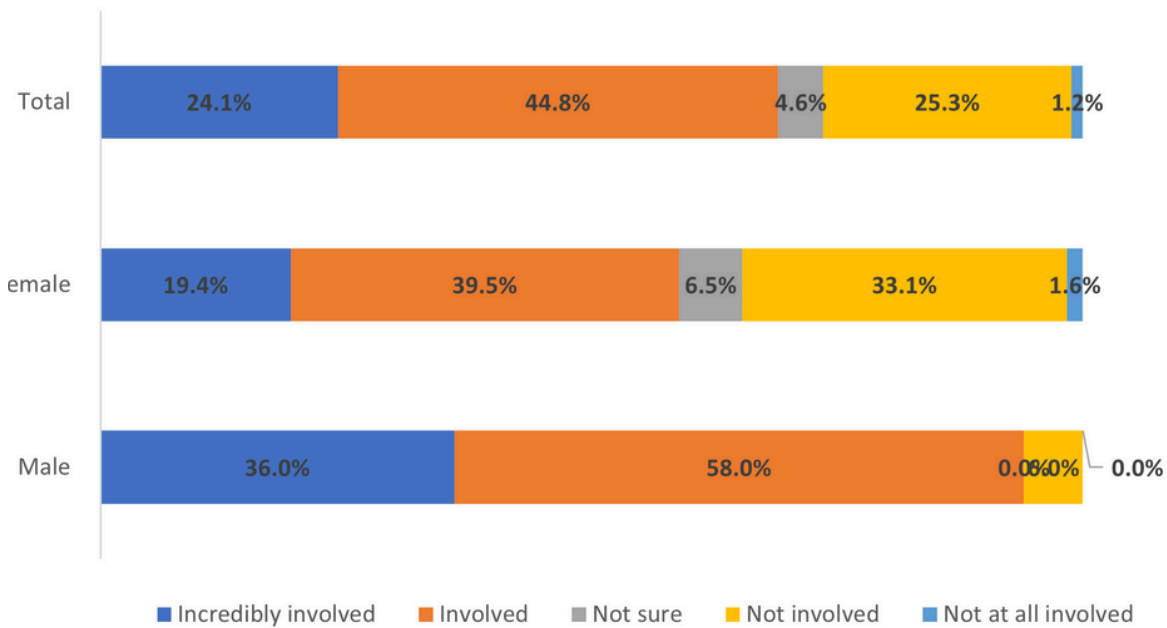


Figure 1: Community involvement in identification, design, implementation and monitoring of urban basic services interventions

It was also reported that in August 2022, the mayor's office established Local Action Groups (LAGs) to support the YOURS project's implementation of the urban regeneration site, ensuring its relevance by bridging the gap between the project and its beneficiaries. The LAGs, comprising an IDP representative, a village leader, a youth representative, a returnee representative, a women's group representative, and a representative from the mayor's office, played a pivotal role in fostering community involvement and ownership. Their responsibilities included acting as intermediaries between local authorities and project beneficiaries, assisting with the Area Upgrading Plan within the Baidoa Community Action Plan, and engaging Displacement Affected Communities (DACs) to build awareness. Additionally, they mobilized community members in the ADC settlements to foster a shared understanding of community-based planning and expected outputs, and served as custodians of social and cultural events, promoting peacebuilding and peaceful coexistence among the host and DAC communities. This approach was a crucial step towards enhancing the relevance and positive impact of the YOURS project.

In terms of satisfaction with the quality of services provided or improved by the YOURS project, 44.44% of male respondents and 26.19% of female respondents were very satisfied, resulting in an overall very satisfied rate of 31.67%. A majority, 55.56% of males and 65.08% of females, expressed satisfaction, culminating in an overall satisfaction rate of 62.22%. A small percentage, 7.94% of females and none of the males, were neither satisfied nor dissatisfied. Only one female respondent (0.79%) reported being dissatisfied, highlighting a generally positive reception of the project's outcomes across both genders.

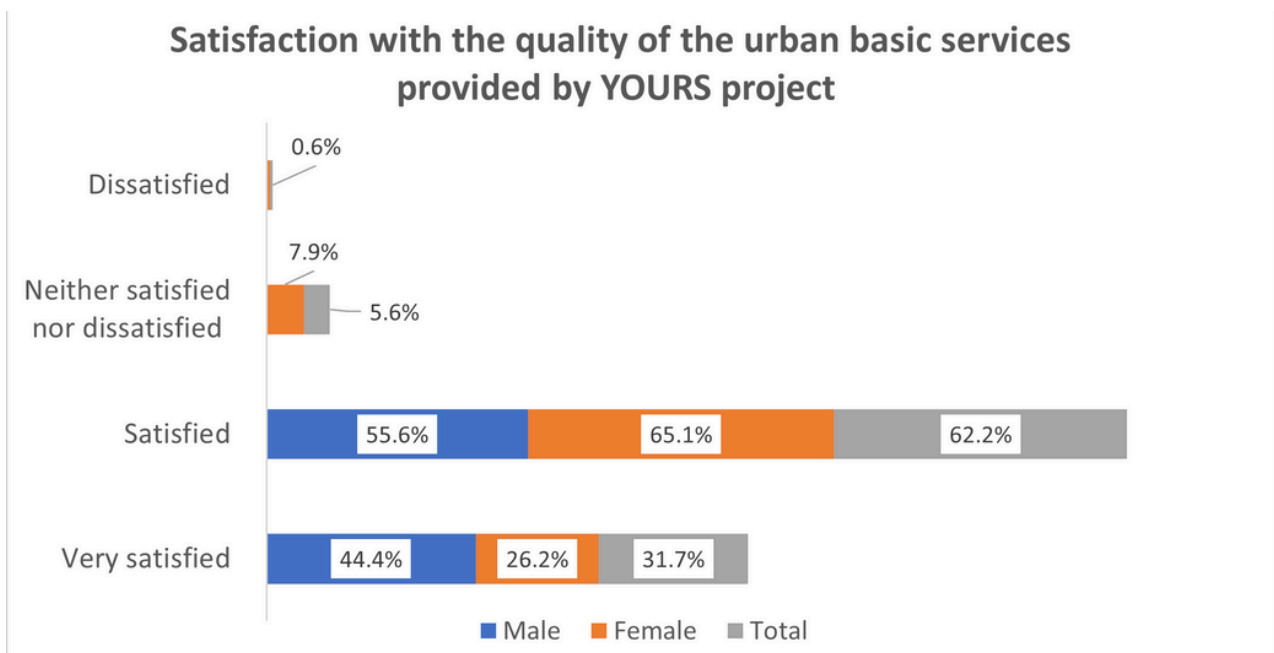


Figure 2: Satisfaction with the quality of urban basic services provided by YOURS project

2. Involvement of community members in the design, implementation and monitoring of the housing upgrading interventions

The respondents were probed on their participation in the design, implementation, and monitoring of housing upgrading interventions done by the YOURS project. Overall, 43.9% reported highly participating in these activities with 50% of male respondents indicated high participation, compared to 42.6% of female respondents. Moderate participation was reported by 42.4% of the total respondents, with equal participation among males (50%) and slightly lower participation among females (40.7%). Slight participation was reported only by females (7.41%), with no males reporting this level of involvement. Additionally, 9.3% of female respondents indicated that they did not participate at all, compared to no males. This is indicative that males were generally more likely to participate in project design and implementation compared to their female counterparts, which could also be an indicator of existing barriers that hinder female participation, and which would require to be explored and addressed in future.

In terms of age, both non-youth and youth reported high and moderate levels of participation, but with minimal variations. Among non-youth respondents, 46.43% reported highly participating, compared to 42.11% of youth. Moderate participation was almost identical for both groups, with 42.86% of non-youth and 42.11% of youth. However, slight participation was more prevalent among non-youth (10.71%) than youth (2.63%). Additionally, 13.16% of youth reported not participating at all, whereas no non-youth respondents indicated non-participation. Given that 13.16% of the youth reported not participating at all while all none youth participated in varied extents, there may be barriers hindering potential participation of youth in the design and implementation that may require to be studied further and be addressed alongside the gender barriers.

Table 1: Community involvement in identification, design, implementation and monitoring of urban basic services interventions

	Gender			Age		
	Male	Female	Total	Non-Youth	Youth	Total
Highly participated	53.9%	43.6%	45.6%	46.43%	42.11%	43.94%
Moderately participated	46.2%	40.0%	41.2%	42.86%	42.11%	42.42%
Slightly participated	0.0%	7.3%	5.9%	10.71%	2.63%	6.06%
Did not participate at all	0.0%	9.1%	7.4%	0%	13.16%	7.58

The lower participation of youths and female’s demographic groups in the programming and implementation phases of housing upgrading interventions necessitates tailoring of a more inclusive and equitable participation process for all community members in future interventions.

Relevance and quality of services provided at Youth Holistic Centres

The youths that benefitted from the Youth Holistic Centers rated the relevance and quality of services that were being provided at the facilities. Overall, a majority of 54.8% rated the services as "Incredibly good" (62.5% amongst Male and 48.8% amongst Females). A further 45.2% of the total respondents rated the services as "Good," with 37.5% of males and 51.2% of females.

Table 2: Relevance and quality of Services provided at the Youth Holistic centres

How would you rate the quality and relevance of the services provided by the youth holistic center for your development?	Male (%)	Female (%)	Total (%)
Incredibly good	62.50	48.78	54.79
Good	37.50	51.22	45.21
Total	100.00	100.00	100.00

Alignment of the YOURS project with the needs of the Youth

Analysis of the question on the extent to which YOURS interventions were aligned with the needs of the youths, the community and the country at large indicated a significant level alignment. As shown in Table 3, a substantial majority of both male and female respondents found the interventions to be "Very Relevant" with 80% of male respondents and 83.9% of female respondent rating the interventions as such which resulted in an overall rating of 82.8%. The "Relevant" category was selected by 20% of males and 13.7% of females, totaling 15.5% of all respondents. Lastly, a small fraction of the respondents rated the interventions as "Somewhat Relevant" (1.15%) or "Not Relevant" (0.57%), with these responses being reported exclusively by the female respondents.

Table 3: Alignment of the Yours project with the needs of the Youth

Q1_9) To what extent were YOURS interventions aligned with the needs of the youth	Gender		
	Male (%)	Female (%)	Total (%)
Very Relevant	80.00	83.87	82.76
Relevant	20.00	13.71	15.52
Somewhat Relevant	0.00	1.61	1.15
Not Relevant	0.00	0.81	0.57
Total	100.00	100.00	100.00

Similarly, analysis of the submission by age returned a consistent trend of high relevance across both youth and non-youth respondents. Among non-youth respondents, 82.69% rated the interventions as "Very Relevant," which is almost identical to the 82.79% of youth respondents who shared the same sentiments. The "Relevant" category was selected by 17.31% of non-youth and 14.75% of youth, making up 15.52% of the total responses. Only a small number rated the interventions as "Somewhat Relevant" (1.15%) or "Not Relevant" (0.57%), with these minimal ratings coming from youth respondents. This data highlights that both youth and non-youths' groups found the YOURS interventions well aligned with their needs.

Table 4: Alignment of YOURS Interventions with Youth Needs by Age

Q1_9) To what extent were YOURS interventions aligned with the needs of the youth	Age		
	Non-Youth (%)	Youth (%)	Total (%)
Very Relevant	82.69	82.79	82.76
Relevant	17.31	14.75	15.52
Somewhat Relevant	0.00	1.64	1.15
Not Relevant	0.00	0.82	0.57
Total	100.00	100.00	100.00

Training and Capacity Building

Training and capacity building was a recurring highlight, and the respondents voiced their unequivocal appreciation for the skills and knowledge that the community members, especially the youth, had gained through the YOURS project. The YOURS project was lauded to have provided the youth with practical entrepreneurship and problem-solving skills through vocational training and capacity-building programs. As part of durable solutions, the trainings imparted self-reliance skills in the youths besides enhancing their employability, which is crucial for long-term community development and individual empowerment. The beneficiaries of the trainings sampled as part of this survey's respondents expressed gratitude for these opportunities, underscoring the relevance and effectiveness of the training they received.

Coherence

Strategic alignment

The YOURS project, through its multifaceted interventions, demonstrated coherence with multiple Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) that relate to poverty reduction, economic growth, reduced inequalities, sustainable urban development, inclusive societies, and effective partnerships. These include SDG 1, 8, 10, 11, 16, and 17 as follows;

i. SDG 1.4, “By 2030, ensure that all men and women, in particular the poor and the vulnerable, have equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to basic services, ownership and control over land and other forms of property, inheritance, natural resources, appropriate new technology and financial services, including microfinance.”

ii. SDG 8.3, “Promote development-oriented policies that support productive activities, decent job creation, entrepreneurship, creativity, and innovation, and encourage the formalization and growth of micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprises, including through access to financial services.”

iii. SDG 8.6, “By 2020, substantially reduce the proportion of youth not in employment, education, or training”,

iv. SDG 10.2 “By 2030, empower and promote the social, economic, and political inclusion of all, irrespective of age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion or economic or other status”

v. SDG 11.1 “By 2030, ensure access for all to adequate, safe, and affordable housing and basic services and upgrade slums”,

vi. SDG 11.3 “By 2030, enhance inclusive and sustainable urbanization and capacity for participatory, integrated, and sustainable human settlement planning and management in all countries.”

vii. SDG 16.7 “Ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory, and representative decision-making at all levels.”

viii. Lastly, SDG 17.17 “Encourage and promote effective public, public-private and civil society partnerships, building on the experience and resourcing strategies of partnerships.”

The YOURS project pursued the principle of equal rights to economic resources and access to basic services, particularly for the poor and vulnerable communities in urban areas. The training, capacity building, and infrastructure improvements empowered the disadvantaged communities with access to essential urban services.

Coordination and complementarity

In 2022, the YOURS project embarked on forging new partnerships while nurturing existing ones. It strengthened collaborations with government entities overseeing project operations in key areas like Baidoa, Kismayo, and Mogadishu. Specifically, the project coordinated its activities and reinforced its ties with:

- i Federal Government of Somalia: Ministry of Public Works, Ministry of Youth & Sports, Banadir Regional Administration, NGO Consortium, and Cluster Coordination.
- ii South-West State: Ministry of Public Works, Ministry of Youth & Sports, Baidoa District Council, Durable Solutions Secretariat, Youth Network Umbrellas, IDP and Community Leaders, Private Sector Organizations, Drought Response Committee, Baidoa Community Action Plan (CAP) Steering Committee, NGO Clusters for Shelter and Water, and
- iii Jubaland State: Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Planning, Kismayo District Council, IDP and Community Representatives, Durable Solutions Department.

The project's operations model entailed collaboration with implementing partners such as LNGOs, INGOs, private enterprises, and community organizations, alongside partnerships with government counterparts. The YOURS project also teamed up with NRC and Asal Construction & General Services to execute significant activities in Baidoa and Kismayo. Furthermore, the YOURS project actively contributed to various policy and program development platforms like the UN Youth Working Group for Somalia and engaged with organizations such as LM International and UNFPA to expand youth-supporting initiatives in areas most in need.

Connectivity and integration

The YOURS project was coherent with several other key development projects that were also enhancing youth capacities, supporting reintegration, and building local capacities for the targeted communities. These projects included;

- i Youth Political Empowerment (2018-2020): Funded by the PBF-Youth Political Empowerment, this project focused on establishing safe spaces for youth, creating mechanisms for their inclusion in policy development, and increasing the capacities of youth and regional governments to address youth issues effectively. The project activities empowered youth to become agents of change and peace through leadership training and platforms that enhanced their capacity to participate in decision-making at various levels. The YOURS project aligned well with this initiative by not only promoting youth political engagement but also addressing economic empowerment through training and capacity-building programs, ensuring a more holistic approach to youth development.

ii

Joint Programme on Youth Employment (2015-2019): Supported by multiple international agencies, this intervention aimed to revitalize the Somali economy by focusing on livelihood enhancement, employment generation, and broad-based inclusive growth. It promoted development-oriented policies that supported productive activities and decent job creation, contributing to the stability of Somalia and the region at large. The YOURS project complemented this initiative by focusing on market-driven skills development for vulnerable women and youth in IDP settlements, broadening the scope of youth employment opportunities and economic renewal efforts.

iii

Innovative Solutions for Displacement (2017-2019): Funded by the Embassy of Sweden, this intervention addressed the increasing number of displacements and returnees, testing innovative solutions for potential upscaling. It aimed to strengthen livelihoods development and governance mechanisms for displacement-affected communities. The YOURS project built on this initiative by enhancing governance mechanisms and focusing on youth development, ensuring more sustainable solutions for displacement-affected communities.

iv

Midnimo Project (Midnimo I: 2016-2018, Midnimo II: 2019-2020): Supported by the UN Trust Fund for Human Security, this project enhanced local leadership capacities to facilitate sustainable return, recovery, social integration, and peaceful coexistence of displacement-affected returnees and other migrant groups. It focused on enhancing youth engagement in participatory processes, including reconciliation efforts that contributed to grounding peacebuilding efforts.

v

EU Response to health and socio-economic impact of SARS-COVID19 in Mogadishu: This project demonstrated a strong alignment with the beneficiary needs by addressing the specific challenges arising from the COVID-19 pandemic in Mogadishu i.e., the health and socio-economic needs. Recognizing the importance of inclusivity, the project design prominently incorporated vulnerable groups and the selection criteria for unconditional cash transfer (UCT) employed was robust in its targeting, taking into consideration diverse vulnerable groups including displaced persons, female-headed households, households with pregnant or lactating mothers, households that had single or multiple displacements, the sick and the elderly. The YOURS project utilized the systematic approach towards implementation of the emergency response (cash transfers and water trucking).

Effectiveness

The study evaluated the project's effectiveness by measuring the extent to which the YOURS project achieved its intended goals and objectives. This involved a thorough assessment of both the outputs and outcomes in relation to the initial plans, ensuring a comprehensive understanding of the project's accomplishments. The study also conducted a detailed evaluation of the overall quality of project implementation, focusing on the methodology and execution. Specifically, the study examined how effectively the project achieved its objectives and outcomes, identifying which results were accomplished and which were not. Furthermore, the study assessed the effectiveness of UN-Habitat and other implementing partners in monitoring the project's implementation, using indicators of achievement to provide evidence on performance and to flag any necessary adjustments to improve project delivery. The evaluation also looked at the project's engagement with partner public departments, authorities, Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), and other stakeholders to determine the effectiveness of partnership structures in achieving the desired results. Additionally, we analyzed how well the program engaged with countries and cities to reach its goals. Lastly, the study evaluated the levels of awareness among beneficiaries regarding the contribution of the funding partner, as well as the visibility and communication materials used in the field.

YOURS project's overall objective was to contribute to sustainable urban development through building resilient communities and providing urban services and livelihood opportunities for residents and

This was to be measured using two high level indicators namely:

1. Percent of target population/households below the poverty line US\$1.90 a day and
2. Percentage of target population with access to urban basic services closer to neighbourhoods.

Of the households interviewed, 68 percent remain below the 2017 poverty line of \$1.90 per day. According to World Bank reports, poverty in Somalia has risen from 71% in 2017 to 73% in 2023. This suggests that YOURS beneficiaries are in a comparatively better situation than other households in the country, thanks to the project's interventions in skills development that enhanced employability and increased incomes.

The findings on household income revealed a monthly mean per capita income of \$52.98 per month, which is equivalent to \$1.77 per person per day. However, there were no statistically significant differences in the mean monthly incomes between male and female-headed households or between youth and non-youth-headed households.

Table 5: Mean Monthly incomes by Gender and Age Category-*Two-sample t test with equal variances*

	Frequency	Mean	dif	St Err	t value	p value
Male	50	53.32	0.483	5.736	0.1	0.933
Female	124	52.84				
Youth	52	49.81	-4.518	5.66	-0.8	0.426
Non- Youth	122	54.33				

Regarding access to urban basic services, 67% of the households reported improved access (59% of households reported improved access to water, 67% to education services, 64% to health facilities, and 77% to latrines), attributing these improvements to the interventions of the YOURS project.

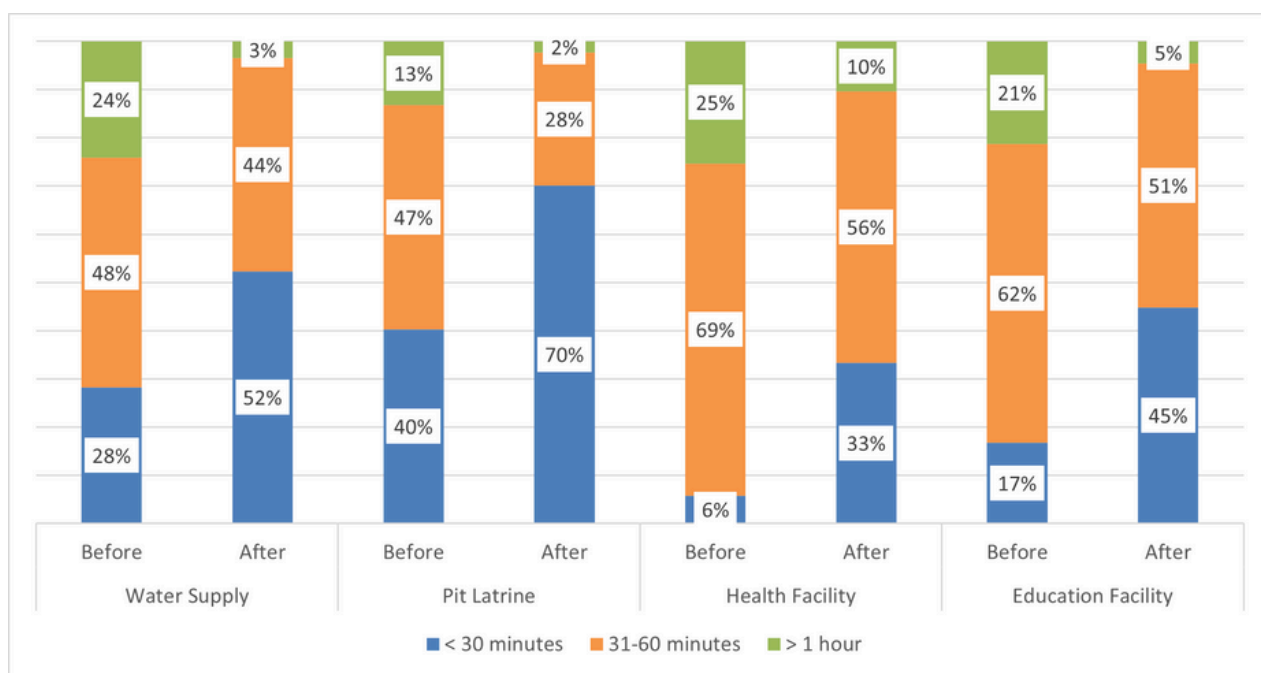


Figure 3: Time taken to Access Basic Urban Facilities

Outcome 1: Increased employment opportunities in market sector driven value chains under the sustainable productive sectors.

The project activities under this outcome aimed to reduce poverty by promoting livelihood enterprises and supporting government structures to build socio-economic resilience. YOURS project expanded its youth and livelihood initiatives by collaborating with public and non-state actors to expedite essential activities that facilitate access to employment, protect the rights of marginalized communities, and eliminate gender biases.

The study findings indicate that YOURS project intervention had reduced unemployment rate of the targeted population by 32% between 2017 (41%) and 2024 (28%). 72% of respondents (53% being women and 51% youths) were engaging in active labour force in both formal and informal sector. Notably, majority (62%) of the individuals in informal sector were running small kiosks and hairdressing shops

This outcome had 3 sub outcomes namely.

1. Output 1.1: Employability enhanced through demand-based skills development in the selected value chains and productive sectors across Somalia
2. Output 1.2: Employment opportunities created through the use of labour-intensive approaches in infrastructure rehabilitation and development across the selected value chains and productive sectors and
3. Output 1.4: Safe and generative spaces for youth are constructed to support holistic youth development.

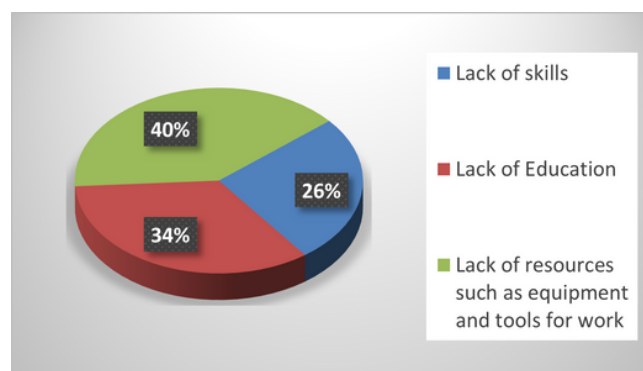


Figure 4: Main Factors causing unemployment

YOURS project commissioned a Value Chain Analysis (VCA) for the city of Baidoa between July and September 2021. This report served as a guiding document to address the high unemployment rate in the Baidoa region and shaped the YOURS program interventions. The construction sector was selected for value chain development due to its significant potential for employment growth within the Somali economy.

The VCA study further suggested that poor education and skills coupled with collapse of dominant sectors such as agriculture and livestock, and lack of economic opportunities are some of the factors causing unemployment and poverty in Somalia. This is further validated in this evaluation where 60% attributed lack of employment to lack of education and required skills.

The YOURS project supported the development, translation from English to Somali and validation, of an entry-level **construction manual** to facilitate and support specialized technical skills training in Somalia. This manual was intended to be a reference guide for construction supervisors and managers. Following the validation, a “training of trainers” (ToT) training on basic construction skills was delivered to 40 engineers and other relevant technical personnel who further cascaded the training to family heads and skilled workers hired by the shelter owners to manage the construction works. The aim of the training was to upgrade skills in the construction sector thus ensuring better construction quality and techniques improving employability.

Further, a mapping exercise of youth networks in South-West State, along with additional appraisals, revealed their scope of work, technical capacity, and gaps in youth representation, political participation, and decision-making contributions. This led to the development of four manuals, namely.

- Literacy, Numeracy and Digital Skills,
- Business Development Services,
- Life skills training- peacebuilding and Soft Skills and
- Capacity building of youth organizations

The YOURS project supported the **construction of the Baidoa Youth Hub (BYH)** to provide a safe space, deemed essential for fostering an environment where youth can engage in social and political issues within their communities. The construction, landscaping, and installation of furniture and equipment were completed in FY23. Additionally, an Agreement of Cooperation (AoC) was signed with the South-West State Ministry of Youth and Sports (SWS-MoYS). This agreement was crucial for operationalizing the hub, providing guidelines and resources for system setup, staffing, and service provision. It also granted MoYS ownership and accountability for the hub, supporting local implementation.

YOURS project integrated life skills training (peacebuilding and soft skills) into the Literacy, Numeracy and Digital Skills and Business Development Services training modules. These training courses were delivered to 500 youths with the aim of developing interpersonal skills and provide knowledge in health as well as personal economy and finance.

To date, the following trainings have been conducted in BYH reaching 550 youths.

- Literacy, numeracy and digital Skills (including life-skills) reaching 200 youths (42% females, 25% IDPs and 9% PWD). The purpose of this module was to provide participants with basic skills in literacy, numeracy and computer skills.



- Business Development Services (including life-skills) reaching 200 youths (39% females, 10% IDPs and 9% PWD)- aimed at providing participants with basic entrepreneurship and business skills, such as accounting and record keeping, cost and benefit analysis, profit calculation, and marketing.



- Life-skills: Peacebuilding and Soft Skills reaching 100 youths (54% females, 15% IDPs and 4% PWD)- aimed at developing participants' interpersonal skills and providing knowledge in health as well as personal economy and finance and,

 **100**
Youths

 **54%**
Females

 **15%**
IDPs

 **4%**
PWDs

- Capacity building of youth organizations reaching 50 youths (46% females, and 4% IDPs)

 **50**
Youths

 **46%**
Females

 **4%**
IDPs

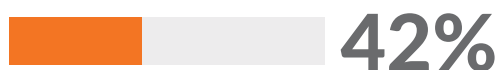
To ensure the long-term sustainability of the Baidoa Youth Hub, a comprehensive Sustainability Strategy was developed. This strategy outlines sustainable models for governance, income generation, and service delivery. It identifies and analyses specific opportunities for BYH to generate income and details processes for covering immediate costs such as training initiation, service provision, and staffing, as well as ongoing expenses like electricity, water, and internet. Additionally, the strategy includes a one-year action plan with practical and realistic steps to sustain BYH in the long term. It also features practical capacity-building tools to effectively support the hub's management.

Outcome 2: Increased youth participation in peacebuilding and reconciliation efforts including engagement in local governance and national decision-making processes.

Somalia's population is young, with over 70% under the age of 30, and 42% between the ages of 14 and 29. Therefore, the social and economic empowerment of youth is a fundamental entry point to urban regeneration and creating more inclusive democratic societies. Youth organisations play central role in creating essential spaces for youth in the community to express their voices, their energy and passion for participation to be harnessed and channelled for social change at all levels of their society.



Of the population under the age of 30



Of the population between ages of 14 and 29

YOURS Project activities under this outcome aimed to enhance young people's participation in the social, economic, and political spheres of Somali society. This included peacebuilding and involvement in local and national decision-making processes. The project sought to empower young people with the necessary skills while simultaneously strengthening the capacity of local government authorities to engage youth more effectively in their processes.

To empower young people as agents of change in peacebuilding and urban development, the YOURS project conducted a comprehensive capacity assessment of youth-led organizations. This assessment evaluated various aspects such as governance and leadership, management operations, and skills for advocating social change. Based on these findings, a capacity-building manual for youth organizations was developed. Subsequently, 50 youths from 25 different youth networks in South-West State of Somalia were trained to enhance their engagement with regional and federal governments on key issues affecting them. These networks included youth activists, women-led organizations, minority groups, and people with disabilities.



550 Youth trained



25 Youth networks capacity built

Additionally, the project incorporated a peacebuilding session in all youth trainings, reaching a total of 550 youths over the project's lifespan. Topics covered included the historical context of conflicts in Somalia, principles of peacebuilding, conflict management and resolution, the structure of the Somali government, good governance, citizen participation, and patriotism.

To strengthen the capacity of stakeholders to engage youth networks and existing youth structures, YOURS project in consultation with a range of stakeholders, including young people, government, and civil society developed a Youth Engagement Strategy to guide stakeholders in ensuring strong, effective, and meaningful youth participation across all areas. The strategy outlines five specific focus areas for action including youth participation and voice, political participation and governance, economic empowerment and entrepreneurship, youth-led community services and inclusivity and representation. Every focus area includes a list of concrete actions and ways through which actors can work and/or focus on to enhance youth engagement in their processes and practices. The strategy also comes with several recommendations for implementation, and practical tools such as a monitoring and evaluation template, to support actors in their engagement with young people.

Outcome 3: Enhanced local social, economic, and spatial integration of displacement affected households through urban regeneration and upgrading projects that expand the delivery of basic services.

The activities of your project under this outcome focused on bridging the gap between Internally Displaced People (IDPs) affected by displacement and the local government by strengthening response systems and structures in informal settlements. Key activities included identifying land for intervention, conducting land use analysis, mapping basic urban services in and around the selected site, and supporting the formation and operation of local action groups. The project also involved conducting information sessions and community dialogues, preparing sites, rehabilitating community service infrastructure, constructing permanent houses, and upgrading shelters.

Given the high concentration of IDP sites, the project prioritized opportunities for urban regeneration that would integrate IDP settlements with host communities. The ADC area in Baidoa was chosen as an ideal location due to its accessibility and favorable security conditions. The planning activities, which addressed spatial, social, and economic reintegration, were aligned with other ongoing projects, including Saameynta, to avoid overlaps, maximize synergies, and support an area-based approach to project implementation.

To curb the spread of COVID-19 in Kismaiyo, the YOURS project conducted assessments in 2021 to evaluate the status of handwashing stations. Based on the findings, the project implemented an integrated approach that included constructing new handwashing facilities at critical locations, rehabilitating existing stations as needed, and providing water where kiosks and points existed but lacked water provision in IDP settlements. Three handwashing stations were constructed at Ahmed Bin Hanbal Primary and Secondary School, Badar Primary and Secondary School, and Kismayo District Office in Kismaiyo town. These facilities improved sanitation for 3,272 students from IDP and urban poor communities. Additionally, in collaboration with other INGOs in the region, water kiosks built by GIZ in IDP settlements were supported with water trucking. Furthermore, the YOURS project partnered with state and local authorities in western Kismaiyo to identify 250 vulnerable households and enhance their social protection through cash transfer kits. Each household received US\$210, benefiting approximately 2,100 individuals and helping to mitigate the economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.



3,272

Students with improved sanitation



\$210

Cash transfer kit for households



250

Vulnerable households

The YOURS project supported the Ministry of Public Works, Reconstruction and Housing, Durable Solutions, and the Directorate at the Ministry of Planning in drafting the Urban Land Management Law and submitting the final draft to the Regional Assembly for endorsement. In the year 2022, the legislation was signed into law. Additionally, an Agreement of Cooperation was signed with the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) to implement the activities related to this outcome.

To promote peaceful coexistence and social cohesion among IDPs and host communities, the YOURS project conducted four community dialogue sessions in Baidoa, reaching 80 participants (38 males and 42 females), and two sessions in Kismayo, reaching 40 participants (21 males and 19 females). These sessions covered topics such as building trust, resolving conflicts, handling intergroup tensions, promoting understanding and peace-making, and finding common ground to foster peaceful coexistence. Additionally, five information sessions on Housing, Land, and Property (HLP) rights were conducted in Baidoa and Kismaiyo to raise awareness among beneficiaries about HLP rights and the adverse effects of forced eviction on IDPs. To further support the project, the office of the mayor established two Local Action Groups (LAGs). These groups serve as intermediaries between the project and its beneficiaries and include six members: an IDP representative, village leader, youth representative, returnee representative, women's group representative, and a representative from the office of the mayor. The responsibilities of the LAGs included:

- Acting as intermediaries between local authorities and project beneficiaries.
- Assisting with the 'Area Upgrading Plan' outlined in the Baidoa Community Action Plan and engaging Displacement Affected Communities (DACs) to build awareness.
- Mobilizing community members in the ADC settlement (urban regeneration site) to enhance understanding of community-based planning, expected outputs, and the forthcoming planning process.
- Serving as custodians of social and cultural events to promote peacebuilding and peaceful coexistence among host and DAC communities.

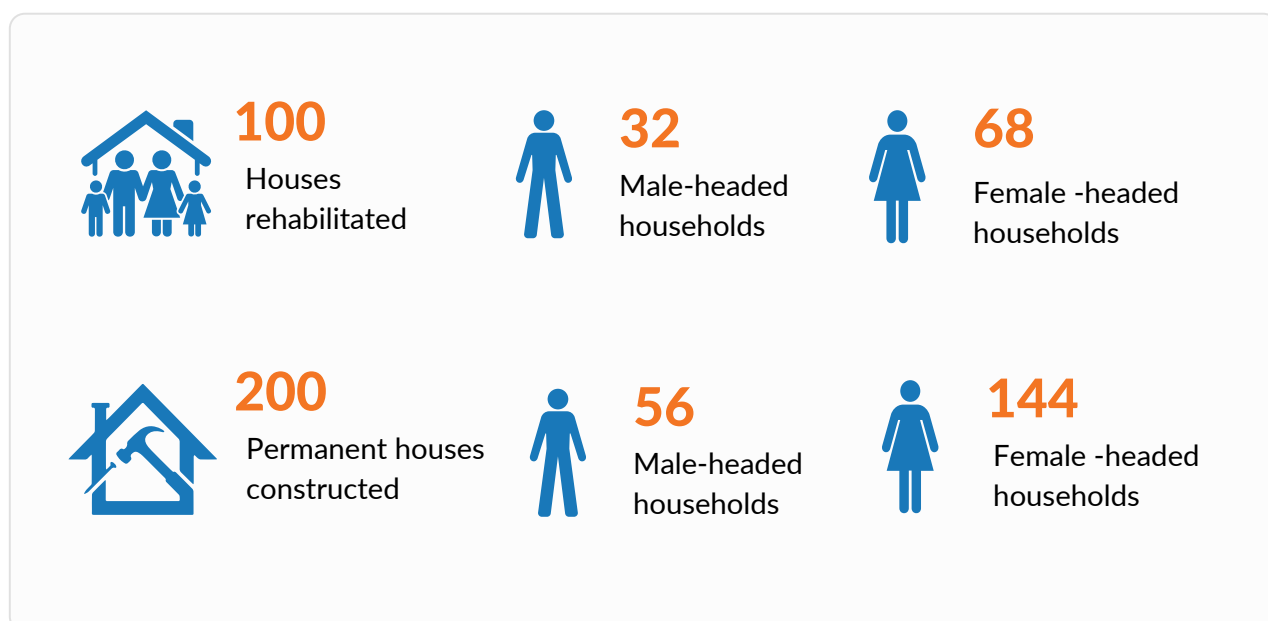
A cultural and social event, featuring a dancing competition, was held in Baidoa to unite the host and IDP communities and foster a shared sense of belonging. The event aimed to promote social cohesion and peaceful coexistence between diverse community groups in Baidoa, specifically permanent residents (host communities) and displacement-affected communities. The Local Action Groups (LAGs) previously established hosted the event.

As part of the upgrading and extension of basic services, two schools in the ADC area of Baidoa were identified for rehabilitation. The improvements included constructing a kitchen, store, water harvesting system, main gate, and rehabilitating a water bar. These schools serve a total of 1,526 students and the investments aimed to ensure the schools can accommodate IDP communities once they relocate to the ADC site.

To improve access to public space for youths, a soccer field was constructed in Midnimo village in Kismayo town. This field provides a recreational space for youths from different groups and backgrounds to play football, promoting social cohesion. A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was established between the local authority and the Midnimo Youth Committee, which manages the facility for the benefit of young people, particularly those from IDP communities.

In coordination with the Southwest Commission for Returnees and IDPs (SWCRI), 100 households (32 male-headed and 68 female-headed) in Kismaiyo with shelters needing rehabilitation were selected. An assessment was conducted to identify the necessary rehabilitation components. The rehabilitation followed an owner-driven approach, where households received cash to purchase materials and carry out renovations themselves under the technical supervision of NRC engineers. These 100 households were trained by facilitators, including one engineer and one foreman, chosen for their expertise and knowledge.

In Baidoa, 200 permanent houses were constructed on two sites in the ADC area and handed over to the owners in early 2024, along with the title deeds for their houses and land. Each house was built on a plot measuring 10 by 20 square meters. The housing construction employed a community-driven approach, with each household responsible for building their shelter under the supervision of NRC site engineers. Family heads and skilled workers hired by the shelter owners received basic site planning and construction training. NRC and UN-Habitat engineers supervised the construction, providing technical guidance to ensure adherence to technical standards.



In response to the ongoing drought in FY2022 and FY2023, the YOURS project focused on providing emergency water and subsistence to vulnerable households in the ADC area in Baidoa. This initiative included providing water and unconditional cash assistance to 200 families for two months. These 200 households were registered and received a Multi-Purpose Cash Transfer (MPCA) of USD 60 per month for two months. Due to a significant reduction in the price of water, the YOURS project formed external partnerships to secure two additional water bladders, increasing the number of water beneficiaries to 410 households. These households received 10 liters of water per day per person for drinking and domestic use through a voucher system, effectively doubling the initial beneficiary count. NRC facilitated the process by selecting water vendors and formalizing agreements through MOUs signed between NRC and the respective communities. These MOUs defined the roles of each party in water provision.

Areas with missing data/ information/ evidence

1. Linking graduates to local youth centres and private sector companies for job placements and employment. - Not done
2. Strengthen partnerships with Chambers of Commerce & Industries in project locations to carry out local needs assessment with regards to skills needs, employment opportunities, etc- - not done BDS component money was redirected to humanitarian activities
3. Training for (Federal Government) FMS on mechanisms for youth inclusion in political processes- Not done- funds redirected to humanitarian

Efficiency

The YOURS project's implementation costs and benefits were evaluated during this study to determine its efficiency in resource allocation and execution.

Local partnerships were instrumental in ensuring access to vulnerable communities, even in areas with security challenges. Notably, collaboration with local organizations facilitated the project's smooth implementation in Baidoa and Kismayu. Additionally, YOURS collaboration with local administrations and government ministries ensured timely execution of activities, resulting in efficient use of time and financial resources. Further, UN-Habitat has shown commendable capacity to both design and implement the project efficiently. The decision to entrust the housing component to the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) was particularly strategic. As a Durable Solutions Member with extensive experience in the construction industry and implementation of Durable solutions, NRC brought valuable expertise to the project. Their specialized knowledge ensured that housing initiatives were implemented with precision and efficiency, addressing the critical need for durable shelter solutions to DACs. This partnership underscored the project's commitment to leveraging the expertise of reputable organizations to achieve its goals, ultimately contributing to the successful implementation of sustainable urban development initiatives in the region.

In terms of resource allocation, the project demonstrated cost-effective approaches. For instance, the use of owner-driven house construction, while time-consuming, proved to be more cost-effective than employing contractors. Buying materials directly from suppliers led to cost savings, as it eliminated contractor margins. Qualified engineers supervised construction works, ensuring quality control.

The funds disbursement for the housing component was done in instalments and this greatly prevented resource misuse. The project also employed conflict resolution mechanisms, utilizing Local Advisory Groups (LAG) to address conflicts and ensure proper resource allocation and utilization in the community, thereby further contributing to project efficiency.

Respondents were probed on whether there were aspects of the Youth project that they felt could have been done differently to enhance the implementation of the YOURS project. A majority of the respondents felt the process was smooth, effective, and transparent, with many expressing their satisfaction with the process of project implementation. Nonetheless, there were also some suggestions where respondents felt improvements could streamline the process and enhance the overall effectiveness of the project.

Impacts

The project's goal was to contribute to reduced spatial urban inequalities by promoting sustainable urban regeneration, youth development and re-integration of marginalized groups through capacity building of government institutions and socio-economic resilience of urban communities targeting South-Central Somalia, (Mogadishu, Baidoa, and Kismayo). The YOURS projects' impact evaluation focused on its social, economic, and environmental dimensions as per the TORs guidance. The project's social impact was examined by reviewing how the project influenced societal dynamics, particularly in shaping attitudes, behaviors, and relationships within the targeted demographics. The economic impact was assessed by evaluating job creation and the establishment of linkages to income generation opportunities. The environmental impact was also considered, looking at any ecological implications resulting from the project. The evaluation sought to determine the extent to which the project achieved its objectives and anticipated long-term impact on partners and beneficiaries, including any unintended positive or negative effects. Additionally, it identified major factors that influenced the attainment of the expected outcomes, providing a comprehensive understanding of the project's overall effectiveness and areas for further improvement.

Social Impact

i. Access to basic urban services

The YOURS project significantly improved the time taken to access basic urban services. For males, 5.6% took less than 30 minutes, 75.9% took 31 to 60 minutes, and 18.5% took more than an hour to access clean water supply before implementation of the project. Remarkably, after implementation of the project, this improved to 53.7% taking less than 30 minutes, 40.7% reporting taking 31 to 60 minutes, and only 5.6% taking more than an hour.

On the other hand, before implementation of the project, females, 36.5% took less than 30 minutes, 34.9% took 31 to 60 minutes, and 28.6% took more than an hour before the project. After the project's implementation however, 51.6% of females took less than 30 minutes, 45.2% took 31 to 60 minutes, and only 3.2% took more than an hour.

Overall, before the project, 27.2% of respondents accessed water in less than 30 minutes, 47.2% in 31 to 60 minutes, and 25.6% took more than an hour. After the project, 5.6% of respondents accessed water in less than 30 minutes, 75.9% in 31 to 60 minutes, and 18.5% took more than an hour.

The improvements in the time taken to x positive impact of the YOURS project in reducing the time needed to access essential urban services, thereby improving the quality of life for both males and females in the community. The significant shift in time categories highlights enhanced efficiency and accessibility, reflecting the project's success in addressing previously existing disparities and inefficiencies in urban service access as summarized in Table 6;

Table 6: Tabulation of access to water supply Before and After Yours Project, by Gender

	Male (Before) %	Male (After) %	Female (Before) %	Female (After) %	Total (Before) %	Total (After) %
< 30 minutes	5.6	53.7	36.5	51.6	27.2	5.6
31-60 minutes	75.9	40.7	34.9	45.2	47.2	75.9
> 1 hour	18.5	5.6	28.6	3.2	25.6	18.5
Total	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00

Before the implementation of the YOURS project, the time taken to reach a pit latrine showed notable differences between male and female respondents. For males, 11.1% took less than 30 minutes, 79.6% took between 31 to 60 minutes, and 9.3% took more than an hour. This improved to 61.1% taking less than 30 minutes, 37.0% taking 31 to 60 minutes, and only 1.9% taking more than an hour. Conversely for females, 52.4% took less than 30 minutes, 31.0% took between 31 to 60 minutes, and 16.7% took more than an hour. After the project, 73.8% took less than 30 minutes, 23.0% took 31 to 60 minutes, and only 3.2% took more than an hour.

Overall, 40% of respondents took less than 30 minutes, 45.6% took 31 to 60 minutes, and 14.4% took more than an hour. After the YOURS project, 70.0% of respondents reached a latrine in less than 30 minutes, 27.2% took 31 to 60 minutes, and just 2.8% took more than an hour. The project therefore made significant impact in reducing the time needed to access sanitary facilities, significantly benefiting the community as illustrated in Table 7;

Table 7: Tabulation of access to Latrines before and After the Yours Project, by Gender

	Male (Before) %	Male (After) %	Female (Before) %	Female (After) %	Total (Before) %	Total (After) %
< 30 minutes	11.1	61.1	52.4	73.8	40.0	70.0
31-60 minutes	79.6	37.0	31.0	23.0	45.6	27.2
> 1 hour	9.3	1.9	16.7	3.2	14.4	2.8
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100

Access to health care was positively impacted by the YOURS project. Before the project, only 7.41% of the Males interviewed could access healthcare within less than 30 minutes, while 70.37% took 31 to 60 minutes, and 22.22% took more than an hour. However, after the project's implementation, these figures showed remarkable improvement. Specifically, 38.89% of males could access healthcare within less than 30 minutes, 46.3% reported taking 31 to 60 minutes, and only 14.81% took more than an hour. For females, similar trends were observed. Prior to the project, 4.76% accessed healthcare within less than 30 minutes, 65.87% took 31 to 60 minutes, and 29.37% took more than an hour. Post-implementation of the project however, these timelines improved significantly to 30.95%, 60.32%, and 8.73% respectively. Overall, the YOURS project made substantial strides in reducing wait times and enhancing healthcare accessibility for both genders as tabulated in Table 8;

Table 8: Tabulation of health care access before and After the Yours Project, by Gender

	Male (Before) %	Male (After) %	Female (Before) %	Female (After) %	Total (Before) %	Total (After) %
< 30 minutes	7.41	38.89	4.76	30.95	5.56	33.33
31-60 minutes	70.37	46.3	65.87	60.32	67.22	56.11
> 1 hour	22.22	14.81	29.37	8.73	27.22	10.56
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100

Access to primary schools was a significant concern prior to the project's initiation. Before the project, 24.07% of males and 12.70% of females could access schools within less than 30 minutes, constituting 16.11% of the overall population. The majority of individuals required 31 to 60 minutes, with 64.81% of males and 59.52% of females falling into this category, making up 61.11% of the total. A notable percentage, 11.11% of males and 27.78% of females (22.78% overall), needed over an hour to access primary schools.

Following the project's implementation, access times to primary schools experienced significant improvements. Specifically, 48.15% of males and 42.06% of females were able to reach schools within less than 30 minutes, representing 43.89% of the total population. For the 31 to 60-minute timeframe, 48.15% of males and 52.38% of females were recorded, totaling 51.11%. Only a minimal percentage, 3.7% of males and 5.56% of females, required more than an hour, accounting for 5% of the overall population. These improvements underscore the project's effectiveness in enhancing access to primary education, particularly in reducing travel times for both genders.

Table 9: Tabulation of access to Primary Schools before and After the Yours Project, by Gender

	Male (Before) %	Male (After) %	Female (Before) %	Female (After) %	Total (Before) %	Total (After) %
< 30 minutes	24.1	48.2	12.7	42.1	16.1	43.9
31-60 minutes	64.8	48.2	59.5	52.4	61.1	51.1
> 1 hour	11.1	3.7	27.8	5.6	22.8	5.0
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100

Change in availability and accessibility of basic urban services

The respondents were probed on their perceptions on changes in availability and accessibility of basic urban services before and after the implementation of the YOURS project. Based on the responses, it was evident that the YOURS project has significantly improved the availability of basic urban services over the past 12 months. In terms of clean water supply, 83.33% of male respondents and 50.79% of female respondents reported an increase or improvement, with an overall rate of 60.56%. Access to clean water supply has notably increased, with 85.19% of male respondents and 50% of female respondents reporting improvements, leading to an overall improvement rate of 60.56%. However, 50% of female respondents indicated that their access to clean water remained the same, highlighting a gender disparity in the perceived benefits.

Availability of latrines saw even more substantial progress, with 96.30% of males and 67.46% of females reporting improvements, totaling 76.11%. Access to latrines or toilets saw even more significant improvements, with 98.15% of males and 69.05% of females reporting increased access, culminating in a total improvement rate of 77.78%. This suggests that the interventions were particularly effective in enhancing sanitary facilities, though there remains a notable gap between the experiences of male and female respondents. Only a small fraction of respondents, 1.85% of males and 30.95% of females, reported no change in their access to latrines.

Housing availability improved for 94.44% of males and 56.35% of females, resulting in an overall improvement rate of 67.78%. Besides the availability improvements, the project also positively impacted access to housing and shelter, with 94.44% of males and 56.35% of females experiencing improvements, resulting in an overall improvement rate of 67.78%. This indicates a substantial enhancement in housing conditions, though, again, female respondents reported a higher rate of unchanged access (43.65%) compared to males (5.56%).

Waste management services improved for 74.07% of males but only 27.78% of females, averaging 41.67% overall. Access to waste management services were well pronounced, with 75.93% of males and only 28.57% of females reporting increased access, leading to an overall improvement rate of 42.78%. The majority of female respondents (70.63%) reported no change in their access, suggesting that waste management services remain a critical area for further intervention to achieve gender parity.

The availability of electricity improved for 70.37% of males and 25.40% of females, with an overall improvement rate of 38.89%. Health services saw improvements reported by 83.33% of males and 52.38% of females, with an overall rate of 61.67%. Access to electricity showed that 74.07% of males and 27.78% of females reported improvements, with an overall improvement rate of 41.67%. A significant portion of respondents, particularly females (70.63%), indicated that their access to electricity remained the same, underscoring a need for more targeted efforts in this area.

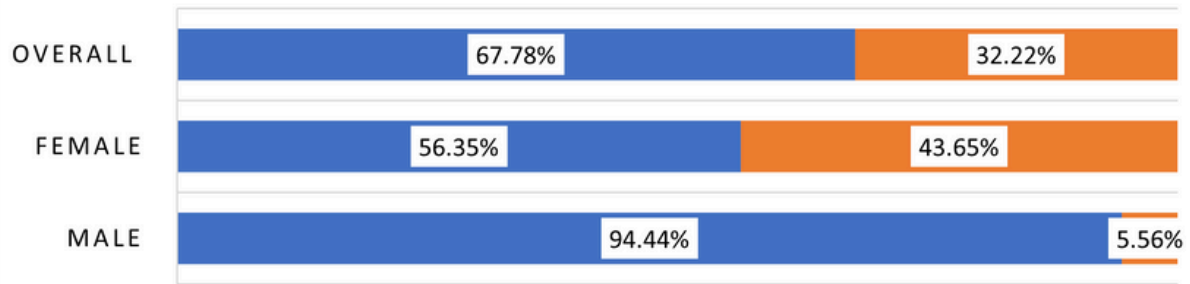
Lastly, educational services or schools improved for 85.19% of males and 61.11% of females, with a total improvement rate of 68.33%. Access to educational services or schools increased for 83.33% of males and 61.90% of females, achieving an overall improvement rate of 68.33%. Although this represents a significant positive shift, 38.10% of females reported that their access remained unchanged, suggesting that educational access improvements were not uniformly experienced across genders.

Overall, whereas the YOURS project has had a positive impact on the availability of essential urban services for the community, the benefits seem to have been experienced more by male respondents compared to female respondents in most categories. Results on access to essential urban services also reveal persistent gender disparities. These disparities will require to be addressed to ensure equitable benefits for all community members.

The responses are illustrated in charts as below;

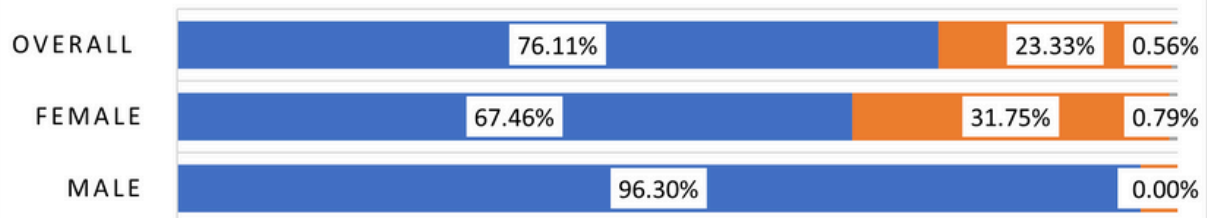
AVAILABILITY OF HOUSING

■ Increased / Improved ■ Remained the same



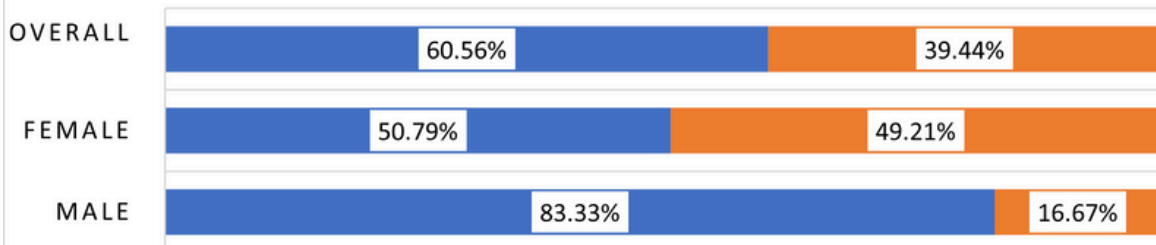
AVAILABILITY OF LATRINES

■ Increased / Improved ■ Remained the same ■ Reduced/ Deteriorated



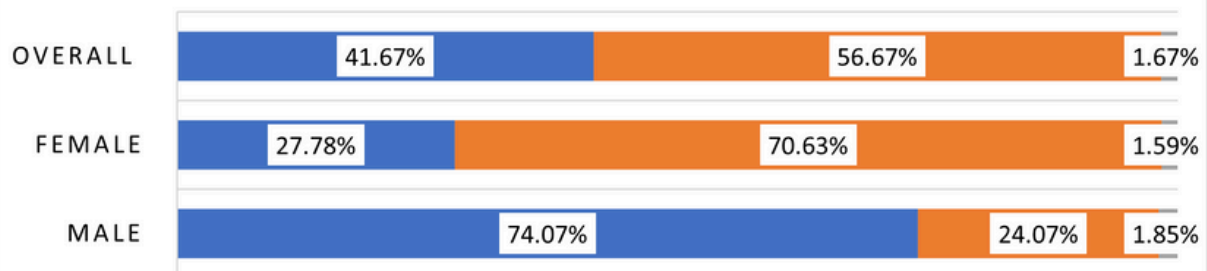
AVAILABILITY OF CLEAN WATER

■ Increased / Improved ■ Remained the same ■ Increased / Improved ■ Remained the same



AVAILABILITY OF WASTE MANAGEMENT

■ Increased / Improved ■ Remained the same ■ Reduced/ Deteriorated



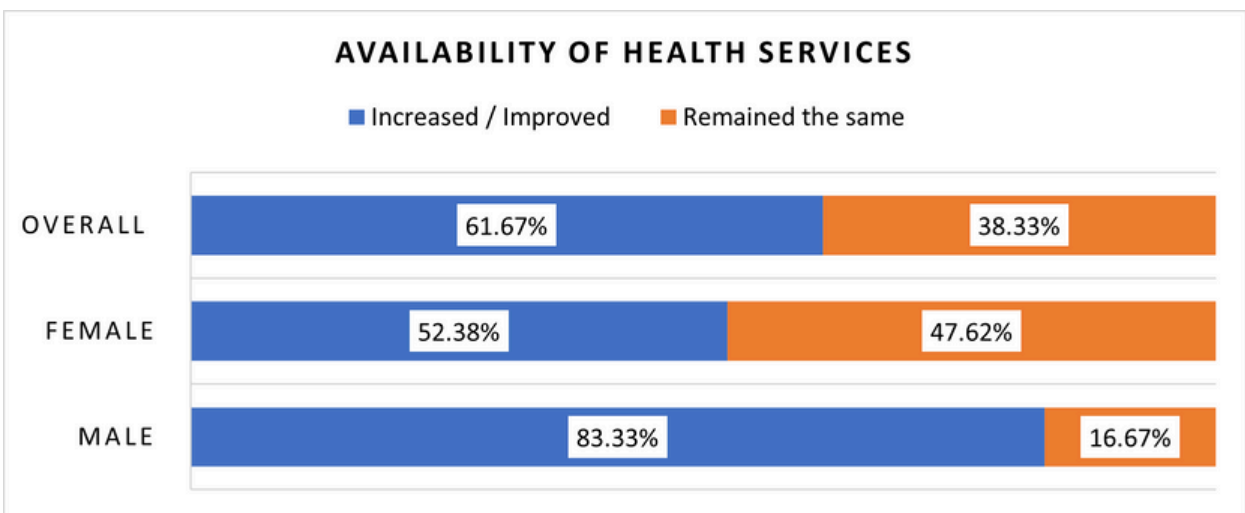
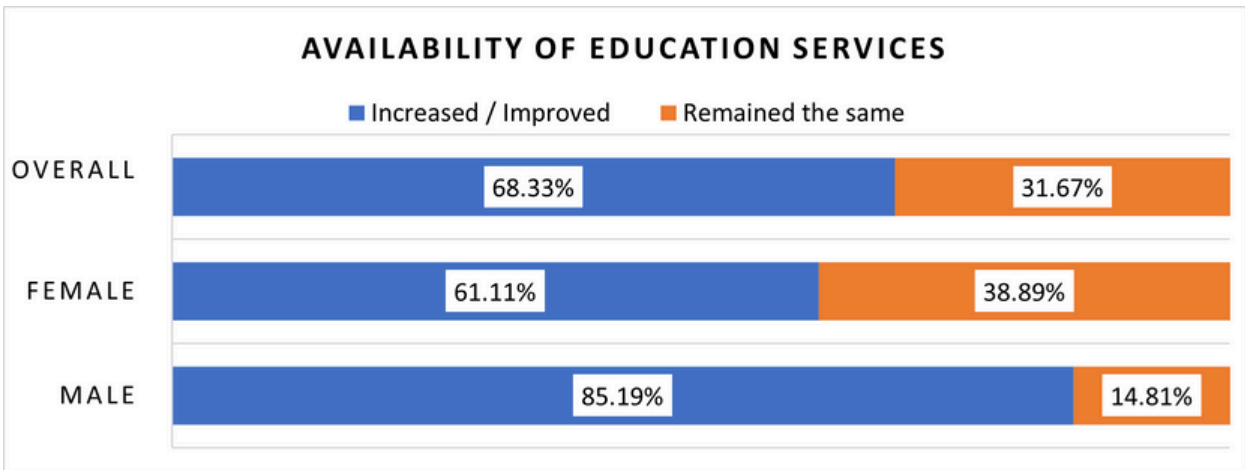
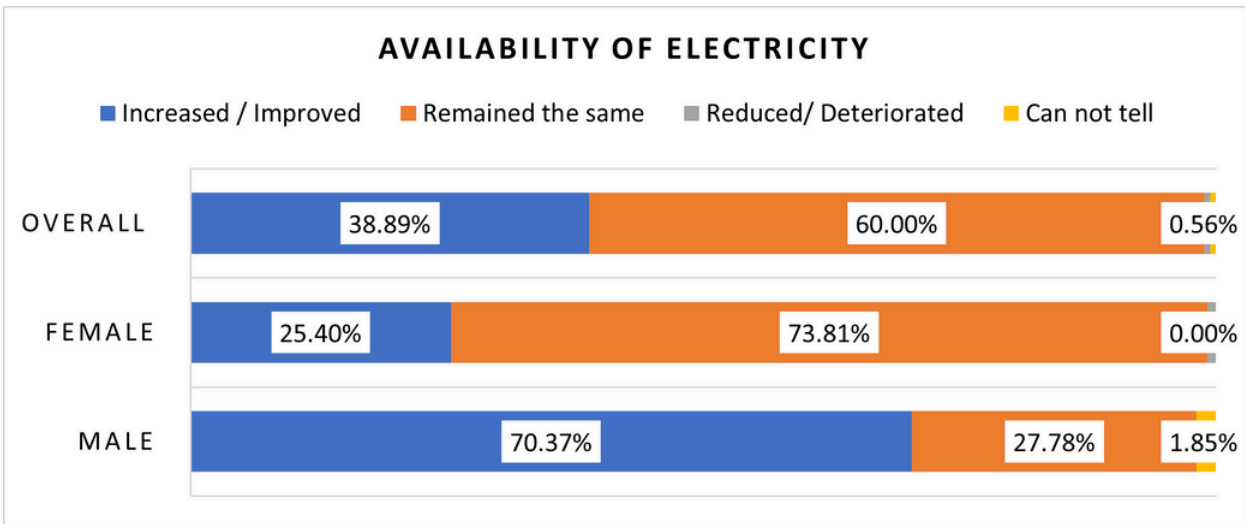
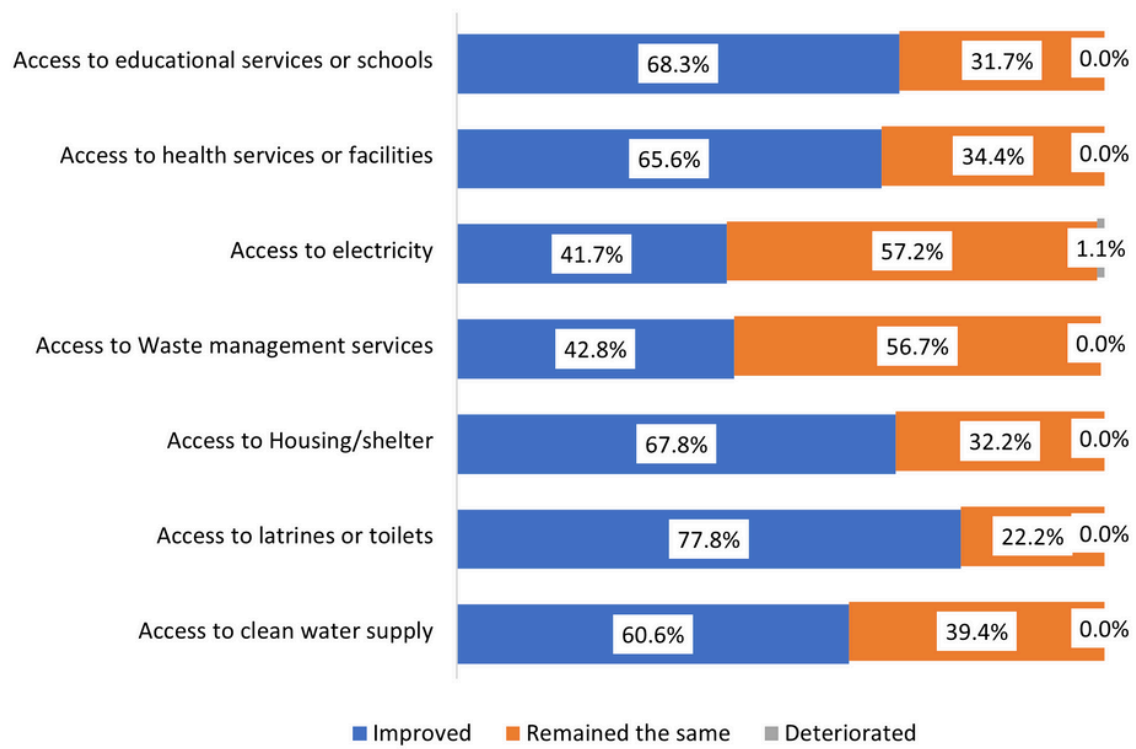


Figure 5: Availability and Accessibility of Basic Urban Service

Overall Access of services



Economic Impact

i. Cash Transfers

To examine the economic impact of the Yours Project, respondents were queried about receipt of cash transfer from the YOURS project among respondents, categorized by gender. Overall, only 11.5% (20 individuals) reported benefiting from cash transfers out of the total 174 respondents, highlighting that the vast majority, 98.33% (177 individuals), did not receive any cash transfer from the YOURS project. Among male respondents, 3.70% (2 individuals) received a cash transfer, only 0.79% (1 individual) of female respondents reported receiving a cash transfer, with an overwhelming 99.21% (125 individuals) indicating they did not receive any cash transfers. The data is indicative of an overall low level of cash transfer by the targeted communities for the YOURS project.



It is our first time ever to receive direct cash transfer. We are very grateful to UN-Habitat and the Government of Sweden for providing this cash assistance that has helped us cope with livelihood challenges. This money helped me buy cereals such as maize, beans from the local market and sugar, tea leaves, salt and oil from the local shops; which we could not afford. Our source of income was the sale of goat milk which has significantly dropped due to the drought situation.

Habibo Bisle Ibrahim | Widow and mother of 13 | Sharifada village

Sustainability

In regard to the sustainability of the Youth and Urban Regeneration project in Somalia, the evaluation sought to respond to the project's sustainability by focusing on; **(i)** institutional capacity, **(ii)** community ownership, and **(iii)** long-term viability on the deployed interventions. This involved evaluating the capacity of local institutions to sustain the benefits of the project, assessing the extent of community involvement and commitment to maintaining project outcomes, and examining the measures put in place to ensure the ongoing impact of the project beyond the project's implementation period. Key questions addressed included the degree to which the project built the capacity and ownership among stakeholders, the engagement of beneficiaries in the design and implementation of activities, and the potential for replication or scaling up of supported initiatives. The evaluation also explored how access to financing for further developments will be secured in future, the mechanisms established to ensure the sustainability of results and benefits achieved, and the involvement of partner public departments, Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), other stakeholders, and the Embassy of Sweden in the design and implementation of the project. By reviewing these aspects, the evaluation aimed to identify ways to further expand the successful benefits of the project.

Institutional capacity



The UN-Habitat team developed strong partnerships with the relevant government ministries, secretariats, and councils to ensure that YOURS project processes aligned with country systems. The project leveraged external resources and collaborated with the government and local organizations, expanding its activities and thereby enhancing its sustainability and impact on the community.

The newly established youth center in Baidoa represents a sustainable beacon of hope for young people and marginalized communities, providing essential services in livelihoods and recreation. The centre is designed with inclusivity and versatility in mind and comprise of the city's first female-only basketball court. The centre grounds are also adaptable for multiple sports such as handball, tennis, and volleyball. Additionally, it features the largest library in Baidoa and a dedicated computer lab to support the growing digital job market in Somalia.

To ensure the sustainability of the Baidoa youth Hub, A comprehensive Sustainability Strategy was developed. This strategy outlines sustainable models for governance, income generation, and service delivery. Specifically, the strategy identifies and analyzes specific supply and demand opportunities for BYH to generate income, as well as processes for meeting immediate costs such as initiation of trainings, services, staffing, and running costs such as electricity, water, and internet. Additionally, a costed Agreement of Cooperation (AoC) was signed with the South-West State Ministry of Youth and Sports (SWS-MoYS) which outlines the activities and responsibilities in relation to Baidoa Youth Hub. This will ensure effective support for the management of the hub thus enhancing its sustainability.

Community Ownership



The involvement of community members in the design, implementation, and monitoring of interventions, the YOURS project promoted a sense of ownership and accountability, crucial for building peaceful and inclusive societies. 88% of the respondents were confident that the committees managing the improved community service infrastructure will be able to maintain them post YOURS project. For example, the formation of Local Action Groups (LAGs) was a crucial step in ensuring the sustainability of the urban regeneration project. LAGs ensured inclusivity of gender, youth, PWDs and the communities involved in these projects and therefore could act as a bridge between the project and its beneficiaries. Their responsibilities included liaising between local authorities and beneficiaries, assisting with the Area Upgrading Plan, engaging Displacement Affected Communities (DACs), and mobilizing community members in the ADC settlements for community-based planning. Additionally, they promoted peacebuilding and coexistence through social and cultural events, ensuring the project's long-term impact.

Cross cutting issues such as gender, human rights

Long-term Viability

The issue of youth unemployment in Baidoa and Kismayu can be tackled through the vocational training and capacity building efforts that were promoted by the project, thereby promoting sustainable economic growth and inclusive employment opportunities and assisting to address social and economic disparities. However, expanding training programs, improving facilitation, and increasing community engagement could further bolster the project's impact and sustainability.

Further, the owner driven approach in the construction of new housing and upgrading of existing ones ensured safe, durable and affordable housing, fostering inclusive and sustainable urbanization. However, there were calls for greater community engagement and awareness, particularly regarding the importance of HLP rights. These suggestions indicate that while the project has been successful, there is still room for growth and enhancement to better meet the needs of the wider community.

Youth

Youth was a significant crosscutting agenda for the YOURS project. The project recognized the critical role that the youth play in the community and therefore adopted a youth-led development approach, ensuring young people were empowered to design, plan, implement, monitor, and evaluate project activities. To achieve this, the project conducted extensive regional consultations and youth forums from the outset, where young people articulated their needs and priorities.

During implementation, the project partnered with youth-led organizations and built their capacity to manage and execute project activities effectively, thereby instituting long-term sustainability. To ensure inclusive participation, the project facilitated youth forums and consultations in regions such as Southwest and Jubaland States that provided young people with platforms to express their development needs in political, economic, and social spheres. Additionally, Youth Councils embedded at the mayors' offices in Kismayo and Baidoa offered invaluable insights into effectively targeting youth participation in local governance mechanisms.

Gender

The Gender Inequality Index for Somalia during the inception of the YOURS project was 0.776, ranking among the worst indices globally. Deep-seated structural impediments, rooted in tradition, culture, social norms, and religious interpretations, significantly hindered gender equality and women's empowerment across Somalia. Consequently, tackling the inequality disparity required an understanding of the role of internal displacement, socio-economic and political inequalities faced by women to adequately address them. Most Somali women are excluded from decision-making and asset ownership due to cultural limitation but are often the first to be afflicted when natural calamities and shocks strike. Their participation in politics and decision-making remained limited, perpetuating gender-based biases and inequalities, with conflict impacting women differently and more severely than their male counterparts.

To tackle the inequalities and challenges faced by women and girls, the YOURS project sought to enhance their social and political inclusion through youth dialogue forums, reconciliation activities, and empowerment initiatives. The project emphasized the importance of gender concerns for internally displaced women, ensuring their protection and rights to equal access and full participation. The program promoted gender-responsive development, planning, and service delivery, with specific actions to mainstream gender throughout the project. These included setting gender baselines, targets, and collecting sex-and-age disaggregated data to track project implementation and ensure that women and girls were equally, if not more, benefitting similarly to men and boys, thereby addressing gender-based disparities comprehensively.

HLP rights

Capacity building of beneficiary communities was an integral part of the support package of YOURS project. Assisted communities (refugees, IDPs, and returnees) were supported with tenure security and information sessions on their rights and responsibilities and assisted to obtain their legal rights, thereby contributing to durable solutions. HLP trainings were offered to participants drawn from various sectors of the community, particularly IDPs, and the local authority, including the municipality, the Southwest State Commission for Refugees and IDPs, with a special focus on IDPs who had been identified for shelter rehabilitation in the ADC zone. By equipping local actors with the necessary knowledge and skills, the training sought to empower them in advocating for their rights and resolving disputes related to HLP matters.

CONCLUSIONS

Based on the evaluation findings, YOURS project achieved its objective of contributing to sustainable urban development through building resilient communities and providing urban services and livelihood opportunities for residents and marginalized groups. YOURS was the first durable solution housing project. By providing the IDPs with plots and constructing permanent houses for them, this empowered them economically by providing collateral through which they are accessing capital to start various businesses in the neighborhood. Additionally, the project enhanced employability of the youths through literacy, numeracy, digital, life skills and BDS impacted greatly on their incomes and livelihoods. The strong partnerships developed with state and non-state partners and the PPPs developed will contribute greatly to the sustainability of basic service provision to the targeted communities. The strengthening of local governance structures translated into increased access to social and basic services. These findings validate the project causal pathways as stipulated in the Theory of Change. Mainstreaming of durable solution strategies into routine government functions emerged as the greatest success for the project scoring highly in respect to both impact and sustainability therefore contributing to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals as well as national priorities.

KEY LESSONS LEARNED

1. Context Adaptation and Flexibility – The YOURS project demonstrated its ability to adapt to the changing context of the pandemic and droughts, which worsened the security and livelihoods of the target population. The project revised some of its outputs and indicators accordingly, and also reprogrammed some of its activities to respond to emerging needs and opportunities, such as the cash transfers and the youth organization support that worked well to address the life-saving basic needs of target beneficiaries. This flexibility ensured the relevance and effectiveness of the project in a volatile environment.

2. Vocational Training and Skills Transfer – The YOURS project focused only on the vocational training linked to the construction sector value chain, and not other types of skills development. This was a strategic choice that ensured the coherence and quality of the training, as well as the employability and income generation of the graduates. The duration of the training was adequate for the target population, given their educational background and the quality standards of the curriculum. The training also included practical lessons, life skills, and entrepreneurship modules, which enhanced the skills and confidence of the trainees.

3. Synergy between Training and Housing Activities – The YOURS project demonstrated a synergistic link between local TOTs in the construction sector and the success of housing construction activities, along with the associated benefits. TOTs provided supervision and imparted knowledge and skills to trainees, preparing them for work in the construction industry. Concurrently, housing activities offered trainees opportunities to apply their skills and earn income. Moreover, these housing activities contributed to providing permanent and dignified shelters for the most vulnerable households, while also improving urban infrastructure and the environment. This dual approach not only enhanced the trainees' practical experience and financial stability but also fostered community development and resilience.

4. Achievement and Challenges of HLP Activities – The YOURS project successfully secured 200 title deeds for permanent housing beneficiaries, ensuring their legal ownership and protection from future eviction. This accomplishment was achieved through strong collaboration and advocacy with the government and community leaders, as well as through sensitization and awareness-raising efforts among the beneficiaries. However, the HLP activities also encountered challenges, such as delays in the issuance of title deeds, the complexity of the land tenure system, and resistance from some landlords and tenants to the formalization process. These challenges and lessons learnt should inform future HLP interventions in Somalia.

5. Innovation and Use of Local Materials in Housing Design and Construction – The YOURS project showcased the innovation and use of local materials in the housing design and construction, which was appreciated by the government and the community. The housing design was based on a participatory approach that involved the beneficiaries and the local authorities and incorporated their preferences and feedback. The housing construction used local materials, such as stabilized soil blocks, which reduced the cost and environmental impact of the project. The use of local materials also created a demand and a market for the local producers, who were trained and supported by the project.

5. Infrastructure Planning and Implementation - Conducting comprehensive feasibility and contextual studies is crucial before embarking on infrastructural projects to address issues such as land ownership and spatial requirements, thus preventing construction delays. Implementing phased construction with trained contractors ensures high-quality outputs and effective supervision. Additionally, decentralizing quality assurance for construction to state-level trained engineers and site foremen can minimize logistical costs and enhance local ownership. This approach also ensures close supervision and compliance with standards.

6. Owner/Community-Driven vs. Contractor Approaches in Infrastructure Projects - Community-driven projects are often more efficient in terms of quality and cost but require more time to complete compared to contractor-driven projects. It is crucial to consider time aspects when designing such projects to avoid disappointing donors with extension requests during the implementation period.

7. Educational Strategies and Context Adaptation - Making provision practical lessons during trainings, providing sensitization session and adapting curricula to Somalia's unique context are innovative strategies to complement resourcing of libraries in building a reading culture in education centres.

8. Visibility and Communication of Project Results and Achievements - The YOURS project did not fully address the strategic need of visibility and communication of the project results and achievements, which should be improved in future projects. The project had a low profile in terms of media coverage, social media presence, and dissemination of the project documents and reports to the local communities, resource. This limited the exposure and recognition of the project among the wider public, the donors, and the potential partners. The project should develop, resource and implement a communication and visibility strategy that can enhance the awareness and appreciation of the project impact and innovation.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the lessons learned from the evaluation of the project, some of the possible recommendations for future projects with similar objectives and contexts are:

a) To enhance the employability and income generation potential of trainees and prevent the oversupply of certain skills in the market, it is crucial to offer a diverse range of vocational skills beyond the construction sector. These skills should be selected based on their relevance and demand in the local market. It is also essential to expand the scope and quality of the training programs in the Youth Hubs to cover a range of technical skills relevant to the construction industry, such as masonry, electrical work, and plumbing, using the construction manual developed by the YOURS project as a guide. Additionally, ensuring that the training duration, curriculum, and quality standards are adequate and appropriate for the target population is essential.

b) To create a win-win situation for the project beneficiaries and the community, and foster social cohesion and integration, future programming should link the training and housing activities to create synergy and mutual benefits by providing the trainees with opportunities to apply their skills and earn income while contributing to the provision of shelter and infrastructure for the most vulnerable households.

c) To enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of future HLP interventions in Somalia, strong collaboration with the government and community stakeholders is encouraged given the success registered by the YOURS project through this model. Alongside this approach, the beneficiaries must be sensitized on the benefits and procedures of the formalization process and the accompanying delays that may be encountered due to complexities of the land tenure system and varied acceptance durations by stakeholders

d) To reduce the cost and environmental impact of housing construction while promoting the local economy and encouraging stakeholder ownership and participation, future projects should prioritize the use of local materials in housing design and construction. This approach should involve beneficiaries and local authorities through a participatory process. Additionally, training and supporting local producers of these materials will help create demand and a sustainable market for them.

e) To enhance the recognition and reputation of the project and the organization, and to attract more funding and partnership opportunities for future initiatives, it is crucial to develop, resource, and implement a comprehensive communication and visibility strategy. This strategy should aim to increase awareness and appreciation of the project's impact and innovations among the wider public, donors, and potential partners. Utilize media coverage, maintain an active social media presence, and disseminate project documents and reports to effectively showcase the project's results and achievements.

f) To leverage the local expertise and resources and empower the local trainers to become the agents of change, future projects should consider scaling-up the use of locally trained trainers of trainers (ToTs) to provide context-adapted training solutions and ensure the sustainability and replication of the project approach and methodology.

g) Establish linkages and partnerships with local construction companies, contractors, and cooperatives to facilitate the placement of trained youth in apprenticeships, internships, or employment opportunities. This will provide practical sessions and hands-on exercises within training programs, enhancing the trainees' learning outcomes and preparing them for real-world challenges in the construction sector.

h) Future projects should prioritize standardizing indicator definitions and institutionalizing M&E practices to enhance organizational learning across projects. The YOURS project has yielded valuable insights that have not been documented, which could inform future programming. Therefore, a shift from traditional M&E to a more comprehensive Monitoring, Evaluation, Adapting, and Learning (MEAL) approach is highly recommended.

ANNEXES

Annex 1: Summary of Indicator Targets Vs Achievements

Result Area	Indicator	Target	Results	Comment
Overall Objective: To contribute to sustainable urban development through building resilient communities and providing urban services and livelihood opportunities for residents and marginalized groups.	1. Percentage of target population/households below the poverty line US\$1.90 a day)	40%	68%	
	2. Percentage of target population with access to urban basic services closer to neighborhoods	50%	67%	59% -water, 67% - education services, 64% - health facilities, and 77% - latrines,
Outcome 1: Increased employment opportunities in market sector driven value chains under the sustainable productive sectors.	Proportion of target population in active labour force (formal and informal) (Disaggregated by age and sex)	30%	72%	
	Proportion of unemployment rate among target population reduced	20%	32%	
Output 1.1: Employability enhanced through demand-based skills development in the selected value chains and productive sectors across Somalia	No. of curriculum and skills training modules refined/ developed in the identified skill-gap areas opportunities	5	5	

Result Area	Indicator	Target	Results	Comment
Output 1.2: Employment opportunities created through the use of labor-intensive approaches in infrastructure rehabilitation and development across the selected value chains and productive sectors	No. of young men and women including vulnerable groups accessing on job-trainings opportunities	800	745	
	No. of value chain assessment and reports/ productive sector infrastructure rehabilitated/ constructed through on the job-construction training	1	1	
Output 1.4: Safe and generative spaces for youth are constructed to support holistic youth development	No. of holistic youth centers established at federal and regional levels	1	1	
Outcome 2: Increased youth participation in peacebuilding and reconciliation efforts including engagement in local governance and national decision-making processes.	Number of young men and women trained to participate in political discourse	450	500	
	Percentage of target population who actively participated in community, social, or political organizations	50%	2%	Other than the capacity building of youth organizations, there were activities that were geared towards encouraging the community to join these organizations.

Result Area	Indicator	Target	Results	Comment
Output 2.1: Enhanced capacities of young people to become agents of change for peacebuilding and urban development priorities.	No. of youth organizations and networks with enhanced capacity	4	25	Through a 10-day extensive training by SOYVA
Output 2.2: Strengthened capacity of local and Government authorities to engage youth networks and existing youth structures at regional/local level governments to ensure youth inclusive policies and practices are in place.	No. of training for (Federal Government Members/States) FMS on mechanisms for youth inclusion in political processes	20		With the reprogramming of funds for humanitarian assistance, this activity was not done.
	No. of policies and framework local authorities/FMS are advised on with a youth focus and developed	6	1	Youth Sustainability Strategy,

Result Area	Indicator	Target	Results	Comment
Outcome 3: Enhanced local social, economic and spatial integration of displacement affected households through urban regeneration and upgrading projects that expand the delivery of basic services	Target population's average time distance to access basic urban service facilities	30 minutes		Indicator was not specific to any particular facility (road, water, school, toilet/Latrines or Health facilities). This is well captured in the evaluation report.
	# of target population by ownership/ tenancy of housing, land, and property documents	300	200	Permanent shelters
Output 3.1: Local authorities and local leaders (e.g. village leaders, area leader, councillors where available, parliamentarians) are supported on participatory, inclusive, evidence-based planning and prioritisation of city and community level interventions and area-based coordination mechanism.	No. of planning sessions with jointly endorsed action plans at area level, mobile phone apps/web-based technologies	4	3	Community action plan developed
	No. of local support and action groups formed that are active at the end of programme utilizing	2	2	CDR committee in the ADC sites

Result Area	Indicator	Target	Results	Comment
	No. of cultural and community related events to bring communities together held	8	9	1- Cultural event in Baidoa 2- Opening Ceremony BYH 3- Urban regeneration visibility campaign 4- Six community dialogue sessions 4 in Baidoa and 2 in Kismayo
Output 3.2: IDPs and vulnerable communities have unimpeded access to basic urban services including water and sanitation, housing and health and support provided to design, implement and monitor area-based, community-led interventions that support the living conditions of displacement affected households and host communities.	No. of households with increased access to basic services	500	350	
	No. of households provided with housing and assisted with shelter upgrading in Baidoa (specify permanent housing and emergency response)	300	350	200- Permanent shelters 100- Renovation of semi-permanent houses 50- Emergency response
	No. of new established or extended community service infrastructure that is operational	3	3	Two schools in Baidoa One soccer field in Midnimo Village in Kismayo

Result Area	Indicator	Target	Results	Comment
	No. of PPPs developed that contribute to sustainability of basic service provision	3	3	<p>1. AoC signed with the South-West State Ministry of Youth and Sports on Baidoa Youth Hub.</p> <p>2. MoU between the local authority and the Midnimo Youth Committee for management of soccer field in Kismaiyo</p> <p>3. MoU between the local authority and the Midnimo Youth Committee.</p>
	No. of displaced people directly benefitting from emergency response activities embedded into urban regeneration to strengthen urban resilience	1,500	2,460	

Result Area	Indicator	Target	Results	Comment
Output 3.3: Strengthened regional and city authorities' urban resilience actions (action plans) to include basic needs of migrant in post crises and recovery phase	No. of Urban growth projections documented and mapped in local development strategies / plans	4	2	1- Sustainability Strategy of Baidoa Youth Hub 2. Urban Land Management Law.
	No. of local staff and leaders sensitized and trained upon urban regeneration and upgrading	80	82	
Output 3.4: Urban vulnerable population have access to direct cash transfer kitty to cushion them from the economic impact as a result of crisis in informal settlements	No. of hand-washing stations in selected project locations	10	3	1. Kismaiyo Ahmed Bin Hanbal Primary and Secondary School 2. Badar Primary and Secondary School 3. Kismayo District Office.
	No. of HH that received cash transfer in response to COVID 19 pandemic	200	250	

	No. of HH that received cash transfer in response to drought	221	200	
Outcome 4: Improved/strengthened capacity of local authorities to implement durable solutions and youth development initiatives across Somalia.				
Result Area	Indicator	Target	Results	Comment
Output 4.1: Scaled-up capacities towards inclusive cities through knowledge exchange between cities and communities at national level to promote urban solutions	No. of exchange visits conducted	7	1	Kismaiyo team to Baidoa
	No. of tools and frameworks developed as a result of best knowledge exchange at national and international engagement	3	5	1. Concept note on the architectural design 2. Jubaland shelter policy 3. BYH tools-business model 4. Youth sustainability strategy 5. BYH website
Output 4.2: Innovative and creative solutions for fit-for-purpose Shelter and housing focussing upon local building culture, climate change adaptation and livelihood promoted.	No. of promotion activities and accompanied visibility campaign conducted	2	1	Urban regeneration visibility campaign-Baidoa