



Somaliland Youth Community Association
(SOYCA)

SOYCA Annual Report



Hargeisa –Somaliland

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Background History.

Somaliland Youth Community Association SOYCA is non profit, non partisan, non political organization. It was established in 2007 by group of youth intellectual members composed of young educators and intellectuals of mix gender with different age and background information in Hargeisa town. SOYCA is legally registered in May, 2007 by the Ministry of Planning and national coordination with registrations and letter of authorization from various governmental institutions including; Ministry of Youth and sports, Ministry of Education, ministry of Justice. Ministry of Mineral water energy, ministry of Environment and rural in, Ministry Reintegration Rehabilitation and returnees.

The purpose established SOYCA was to participate in the reconstruction, reintegration and community development programs with good partnership with local NGOs.

The main aim of this unification effort was to participate in community development, promotion of Youth and women's rights through awareness raising of the communities, organizing and mobilizing of women's rights through establishing strong networks among youth, women NGOs in Somaliland and provision of capacity building trainings for the women NGOs, fund raising for the member NGOs of SOYCA and strengthening co-operation linkages with the local authorities in Somaliland. SOYCA works also peace building and democracy in Somaliland.

SOYCA is dedicated to mobilizing young woman and men to actively take part in the democratization process of the country. SOYCA exists and has programs in all of the six regions of Somaliland. SOYCA has strong human resource who have participated the implementation of different projects working with youth and had strong collaboration with youth clubs and students in the universities.

SOYCA organization gives internship positions for the under-graduate students at universities and became the first winner of Oxfam Novib capacity building program. The organization has partnership with Muslim aid, Wales and implements project with Oxfam Novib, Sahil municipality, Hargeisa Municipality,

Oxfam Novib Human right. The Organization's main focus policy is the development of youth and women by supporting and response to their felt needs regardless of age, gender, knowledge, ethnic, etc. The most pressing needs of the groups are identified through meetings with community leaders and a possible solution is worked out in partnership with them. In geographically, SOYCA start working in Marodijeh region of Somaliland which holds the highest total population estimated 3.7 million people and SOYCA expanded its operation to the other regions including Sahil, Togdheer and Awdal for last two years.

The target beneficiaries of the organization are young people and adolescent between the age of 17 and 25. 90 percent of SOYCA beneficiaries are young girls.

SOYCA Mission Statement

SOYCA strive for the empowerment of the women and youth and vulnerable group in the community is educated on Human right, Democracy and promotion of local community health standards.

SOYCA objectives.

- ✓ Advocate for activism on women & youth human rights with promotion of child rights.
- ✓ Support the leadership of Women and youth for decision making on concerning issues in political context.
- ✓ Empowerment of women and youth through women/youth rights education and providing basic gear for generating income.
- ✓ Build the Capacity of vulnerable groups including women, disable people, IDPS, Street children, through nonformula education programs, Awareness Raising under focus.
- ✓ To ensure the protection and care of PLWA and child neglect..
- ✓ Encourage for implementation of all international conventions and standards on basic human rights.
- ✓ Environment protection Awareness Campaign

Programme Activities

Education

1.1. Non-formal education



Providing access to education for young people and adolescent is one of the organizations priorities. Young people and adolescent especially from low income families whom don't have access and opportunities to education due to lack of money to pay school fees.

SOYCA believes that empowering women and young people and adolescent will help in the development and progress of a community.

After seeing the needs of the Young people and adolescent education within the IDP (Internally Displaced People) in the Masalaha area SOYCA established the first Non Formal Education classes for Young people and adolescent within the IDP. Since 2009 the organizations have been running free NFE classes (basic literacy classes) for underprivileged Young people and adolescent.

Despite difficulties and challenges faced by the organization, SOYCA continues to support and provide free classes for young children in the Masalaha area. Volunteer teachers teach the children on weekly basis with the sessions. The NFE program was supported by Community Diaspora Somaliland (UK) and SOYCA by basis supplies for the school (school)?

Empowerment of women and Youth Awareness workshop



SOYCA HIV/AIDS programs implement and organize in different ways including meetings, trainings, workshops, conferences, presenting drama, broadcasting radio programs and debates sharing with the young people and the civil-society. SOYCA conduct many workshops and training on HIV/AIDS. Like the following one which named by Somaliland youth week against HIV/AIDS.

Somaliland Youth Community Association (SOYCA) organized four workshops held indifferent villages in Hargeisa. SOYCA has also collaborated with four youth organization that effectively implemented these workshops and they are SOCSA, WHRDN. These listed four youth organizations assigned implemented of the activities while SOYCA has responsibility of funding monitoring and evaluation. Other international agencies were also including organizing or funding this youth week as Oxfam Novib.

Hopefully more that 450 youth and young people benefited from these workshops and gained a lot of experience and knowledge in which they can today fight against this versa and save themselves and others as whole.

In Somaliland it is not astonish able how lot of people still remain stage of denial, stigma and more surprising in this issue of HIV/AIDS prevention.

Capacity Building.

The basic aim of the capacity building project was to provide SOYCA staff with the necessary techniques and strategies so that they could deliver services to the Somali community in an effective and efficient way. It was expected that a visible improvement will be felt in the service delivery of SOYCA staff once the training is over which means development of better and easier approach to community promotion in terms of HIV/AIDS community level awareness and tangible progress in the professionalism of the SOYCA staff particularly in the areas of leadership, resources management and governance.

Therefore .SOYCA founders realized the necessity of establishing an organization such imperative step will furthering to contribute to youth community needs and to search the alternative solutions regarding youth problems and rising their potentiality and to ensure youth active participation in development interventions as well as building youth credibility confidence as well as creativity

Because of the gaps resulted after the assessment done by Swods consultants on OD of the CSOs in Somaliland. It became imperative to upgrade the capacity building of the cited staff and members on Team building. Therefore SOYCA has drafted capacity building project funded by Oxfam Novib.

Objective of the project

- Upgrade the capacity of SOYCA staff on OD and HIV notions
- Provide skills and techniques relating to organizational management and leadership



Empowerment of Women Development.



It has been realized that since the youth and women are constitute the immensity of the local community, the enhancement of the capacity of the future labor force through upgrading of their skills and statue of education for betterment of the country of Somaliland

Empowerment of these two groups will solve their problems in education, health and employment opportunities that will be helpful not only themselves and families but also to whole local community in Somaliland in socially and economically.

Upgrading skills and knowledge of the women and youth groups is considered vital, so as to enable them take part the changes and concerning issues on response of their basic human rights actively. In the major Cities of Somaliland, the ceremony of the International Women Day has been held and organized by various groups including CSO, LNGO, Local institutions with the support of central Administration and International community based in and outside of the country.

It was recognized as of the motto of international day of women in the year 2011 is **Equal access to education, training and science and technology: Pathway to decent work for women**, that educating girls and women to break the cycle of low education and strengthening educational opportunities for adolescents in accordance to female gender equality in education. Sharing information and knowledge on the rights of women based on conventions of international standards and relevance to the Millennium development goal of **3: Promote gender equality and empower women**.



Human Right



In order to keep the human rights, SOYCA dedicates to protection and watchdog girls and women right through anything possible mechanism. Despite that, SOYCA fight for gender basic violence, rape and FGC and other domestic violence and field work violence when it comes gender work areas. In human rights activities SOYCA focus on two essential human rights areas: Gender Basic violence and Child rights ,On these two areas SOYCA working for almost last six years, implemented a lot of awareness campaigns including International women's day in 2011, children rights awareness campaigns in 2008 up to 2009. SOYCA organizes workshops, trainings, participatory theatre exhibitions to the public, production of radio a television programs.

Moreover, SOYCA provides skills and education services of both genders and mostly give more priority young girls and women

a) **Environment protection.**



SOYCA works in Health and Sanitation programs in Hargeisa region. Since its establishment the organization undertook various campaigns talking about the risks of poor hygiene. The organization runs the health and Sanitation program by giving awareness to the communities, SOYCA holds campaigns to collect plastic bags from the streets, collecting garbage and burning it.

As well as teaching people about the good hygiene practices like burning garbage, washing hands before eating, keeping the community clean etc.

Health

PLWH and FGC



SOYCA is well known for its widespread campaigns that it holds within the community through its unique way of awareness campaigns and educates people against HIV/AIDS, FGC, Health issues and Sanitation. SOYCA uses its young people trained Participatory theatre and culture group to give awareness against the harmful practice of FGM. Through its campaigns there is some evidence that people are getting the message to end FGC practice. In addition to that, SOYCA also talks, informs, and educates people about the HIV and AIDS pandemic, which are affecting many people around the world. Somaliland is one of the countries that have a low HIV prevalence rate of 1.4%. Low compared to other Africa countries. SOYCA work hard in giving awareness to the community to stop the increase of number of people infected by HIV and also to end stigma and discrimination towards people infected and affected by HIV and AIDS. SOYCA also holds awareness campaigns, workshops, seminars, video and radio programs those interviews various people concerning issues and then broadcasting mass media.

Membership:

SOYCA is member of Human right Forum in Somaliland and Wadajir human right development network, also SOYCA coalition with SOCSA,SWIMA or cooperation with SOYDA,HYVO, Havoyoco,

Partnership

SOYCA is partner of Oxfam novib in Capacity Building, Human right, HIV|AIDs; SOYCA is partner of Muslim Aid.

Also **SOYCA has good statue of work relation and contacts** to .NED,(National Endowment for Democracy) (UNPOS) United nation political office Somalia ,(GFW) Global fund for women ,(AWFD) African Women Fund Development , (EDC) Education Development Center (UNDEF)United Nations Democracy fund, UNICEF, UNDP, United Nation Development programme, I RI, international Republic institute ,WFP, World food Programme ,NDI(National Democracy institute) Save children Finland,

Conclusion

SOYCA has completed the preparation of report Programme activities that ended with the accomplishment of all its activities in 2008-2011.

Recommendation

Since SOYCA has now become an organization whose capacity has been built its capable in undertaking the activities concerning its mandate we recommend that SOYCA entrust with more funding chances in order to permit SOYCA to stand with more solid ground and continue to serve its community with the acquired knowledge of transparency and accountability.