

2022 UPSHIFT PROGRESS REPORT- DECEMBER



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About the project

Strengthening the protective environment for women and children at risk of violence, abuse and exploitation in Somaliland is a three-year UNICEF program implementing by women action for advocacy and progress organization (WAAPO); the program consists of three major projects: community-care, Upshift (adolescents), and child protection & GBV prevention and response. The project will be implemented in six main regions of Somaliland, including Togdheer, Maroodijeex, Sool, Sanaag, and Awdal. The project provides funding for three safe houses in Hargaisa, Borama, and Burco, as well as a five-child protection desk, three child-friendly spaces (CFSs) in three districts, and a youth-hub innovation center focused on adolescent and youth entrepreneurship, skill development and vocational training.

The UPSHIFT innovative Livelihood program (a youth social innovative program) that WAAPO is implementing with the support of UNICEF, aimed to provide income opportunity for GBV female survivors, adolescents and youth for their own economic development of social enterprise and economic empowerment. The program will create income opportunities for 200 persons; In total of 100 individuals will also benefited life skills programs in WAAPO centers.



About the Center

With the support of UNICEF, WAAPO opened the first-ever Youth hubs center - Youth Friendly Center (AAYO) for the Upshift beneficiaries In Somaliland.

The AAYO center is a creative space for youth that provides youth-friendly spaces, unique business entrepreneurship education, life skills programs, and seed funds for youth-driven business projects. The center targets adolescents, youth/adolescents at risk of migration and other protection concerns, victims of GBV, under deprived young people from the IDPs sites and to empower them through education, life skills and business opportunities.

The AAYO center serve as fully integrated "one-stop" space to help Upshift beneficiaries' unleash their potential, get access to life skills, education, networking, business guidance, to connect each other and share their experience. The center will be equipped easy-to access equipment such as computers, internet connectivity, library-books and stationers. And youth entertainment activities such as table tennis, billiard, and a play station.

The adolescents and youth members among the Upshift program will also offer a boot camp training, social venture workshops, networking events (that will be held in the youth hubs center), and professional readiness training courses. And start-ups grants. The business mentor officers will play a critical role in the incubations process incl. job-matching and work-based learning activities, fundraising, and linking up with the local investor.

The life skill education program is aimed at providing 21st-century skills and education that will enable youth to thrive in the workplace, access to quality education, enhance the opportunity for youth employment and to reduce illiteracy among the youth and adolescents in Somaliland.

For more information about the life skill classes please refer the below table

No.	Name of program	Statues (IDPs, Host,.. refugee)	Target			Status (Continue; finished ; Planned)
1	Summer entrepreneurship course	IDP & Host Refugee	M9	F9	18	Finished
2	English					
	Level 1	IDP & Host Refugee	M14	F7	21	Finished

	Level 2	IDP & Host Refugee	M5	F26	31	Finished
3	Basic Computer	IDP & Host Refugee	M6	F19	25	Finished
4	Coding	IDP & Host Refugee	M6	F6	12	Finished
5	Traditional Dance	IDP & Host Refugee	M6	F6	12	Finished
6	Make up Class	IDP & Host Refugee		F24	24	Finished

PROGRESS UPDATE.

Business groups in Hargeisa and Gabilay

The business groups after they submitted the quations, and WAAP0 has chosed the ventors for them ; some of the groups got the products/services they wanted, few other are in the process but we do hope to conclude and lunch the ventures in the first week of January.

In december we have conducted a social venture workshop in hargeisa and Gabilay for 2 days each. Social Venture Workshop is the second phase of engagement for the UPSHIFT beneficiaries that went through the social innovation bootcamp to improve their knowledge on the social venture, business innovation, and entrepreneurship through mentorship, and guidance and to enable the youth to critically pre-test their prototype business ideas. The participants learnt how to build sustainable innovative social & business ventures, business modeling, market research, SWOT analysis, Learn Canvas & business model, and financial support to start-up social enterprises. identify key players, better understand competition, create a clear picture of the predicted costs and revenue and finally equip products and services with the main feature needs to enter the market.



The main expected outcome for this workshop was for the business group to have a clear business plan and understanding of their business goal and business model, as well as to pre-test their prototype business ideas to see if they are viable. Its also aimed to enhance the skills of the upshift beneficiaries participants who previously took the social innovation and design thinking workshop this social venture workshop was designed to build on that and give the participants more entrepreneurial skills to develop their business ideas further.

The number of people who attended that workshop in Hargeisa was 22 (6M & 16F) and in Gabilay (7F & 9M)



Social venture workshop Participants Profile

- Participants were limited to those who have previously attended a social innovation Bootcamp workshop, design thinking workshop and are expected to be funded.
- The main priority for these participants were given to GBV survivors who are current staying in the WAAPO Safe house, Safe house leavers, and Upshift youth beneficiaries incl. adolescents' & young girls at risks of all forms of abuse and protection risks, children with the conflict of law, youth among the IDPs and host communities., adolescents and minorities.

Key Challenges,

1. Some of the participants were not in the city and some others were suffering from dengue fever, so we had few students participated in the training.

2. Some of the business participants also wanted to change their business idea, it's really challenging wanting to change an idea at this point.
3. Participants usually prefer Somali contents over English, these documents are needed to be translated into Somali so participants can have an option.
4. Since participants were coming from far places, they expected us to provide a per diem but we didn't have a budget.
5. The time we conducted the first workshop and now it's been a quiet time, participants really wanted to move faster, and because of the procedures that we have in place we could move that quickly, their energy and the appetite decreased.

Recommendations.

1. To avoid students missing the workshop, we need to plan the workshop 2 weeks/week in advance so participants can plan ahead in case they're travelling to the neighboring districts.
2. Changing ideas at this time is a bit skeptical, also we don't want to overlook a problem that can be avoided by now. The business mentor is addressing this issue deeply.
3. Waapo should prepare an alternative toolkit for participants who are not familiar with English.
4. Providing per diems is something we're looking into but we also don't want our beneficiary to rely on this when we can't.

Weekly intensive business skills.

The ongoing intensive business class was concluded, and the participants have completed the weekly training package about the upshift toolkit including Upshift Bootcamp Handbook, Social Innovation skills (Phase 1); Social Venture curriculum (Phase 2).

The ultimate goal of the intensive business class was for Upshift business groups to build a concrete business plan and model, prepare them, in cooperation with the private sector, vendors, and upscale their business resources, obtain unlimited skills such as pitching their business idea, the knowledge of where to find business resources, and the confidence to take the big step to become a business owner in the future.

The participants met the learning outcomes and understood the course concept, but more importantly, since they were coming together as a team on every Thursday for the classes, that has helped the business group members to get to know each other more and work together towards



their

venture.



The number of people attended this weekly sessions were 31 participants (19 females and 12 males). The participants profile for the intensive business skills were limited to those who have previously attended a social innovation Bootcamp workshop, design thinking workshop and are expected to be funded. The main priority were given to GBV survivors who are current staying in the WAAPO Safe house, Safe house leavers, and Upshift youth beneficiaries incl. adolescents' & young girls at risks of all forms of abuse and protection risks, children with the conflict of law, youth among the IDPs and host communities., adolescents and minorities.

Challenges and recommendation.

The course was succesful and there were no many challenges encountered during the course, other than panctuality of some students. Since students were working in groups, it was bit challenging in the begining to have all members present on every session, some of the members were not available

in the mornings and on thursdays, so finding a time that's suitable for everone was hard. Some students compromised and we fix it finally.

Life skill Classes.

A. Coding

In December coding students learned HTML and CSS - two of the core technologies for building Web pages, students were able to create homepages by themselves, and they also took JavaScript fundamentals, JavaScript fundamentals II and Dom. manipulation. that allowed to add, remove, and modify elements of website home pages they created.

B. English

In December, the English teacher have taken 2 pop quizzes, and the quiz results have shown that students are meeting with the learning outcomes. the students' grammar and vocabulary for level 1 while in level 2 are improving, during December the instructor did vocabulary lessons, listening, and as well as speaking lessons.

- in Level 1 - Vocabulary: students covered Lesson 10:work and employment ; Lesson 11:school and studying; Lesson 12:phone and computers. And the speaking lessons students have covered are lesson 8:restaurants-part 1; Lesson 9:restaurants-part 2; Lesson 10:ordering drinks, coffee, and a pizza.
- In Level 2 - Vocabulary: students have covered Lesson 5:taking care of your home; Lesson 6:work and employment;Lesson 7:issues in education. Speaking: Lesson 11:why aren't you on time?; Lesson 12:meeting new people; Lesson 13:a complicated coffee order.

C. Basic Computer

The basic computer students were onhold for this month and will be continuing next month, the classes will resume on the 2nd of January. Students have learned basic (Windows 10 Introduction, Microsoft Word Basic, Microsoft Word Intermediate, Microsoft Word Advance, Microsoft Excel Basic, Microsoft Excel Intermediate, Microsoft PowerPoint Basic, Microsoft PowerPoint Advanced, Microsoft Outlook Basic, Microsoft Outlook Intermediate,





Microsoft Outlook Advanced, Internet Basics.

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Summer Entrepreneurship Course



In December, the summer entrepreneurship students have covered modules 5 and 6. These modules focus on key people and key activities. The student learned how to make an action plan, and priority matrix.

They have also learned what Minimal Viable Product (MVP) is and how they can create MVP for their business. they have covered the last two modules which are tell your story and launch.

The instructor spent a good amount of time practicing the 10-second's pitch. The aim of this was for the participants to be able to deliver an impactful and sufficient message answering their business idea.

Make-up class in Borama :

Students started the classes in December, we provided makeup for the students even though getting the make-up kit took time because finding original make-up kits was a bit challenging but we finally managed to buy the products. Makeup- students have learned basic the introduction of makeup, how to use different make-up, and different company products, students learned products to use for eyes, and face, and how to create a whole complete look.



Students practicing and doing make ups

Home Cooking Class in Hargeisa.



In December home cooking students have managed to learn variants of foods and desserts such as kebab rice, sweet & sour fish, haniid with European and special salad, and chicken baryani rice. They have also learned eastern, coffee, and juice, shuuro huuris ah.



Chicken biryani



Castard with cream



Macaroni with minced meet



Shuuro Huuris ah

Traditional dance

In December we started Somali traditional dancing classes, and they are going well, though missing students was a bit challenging for us because parents seem not to like their daughters learning this skill, it's a bit uncultured for them but girls are really interested in continuing the traditional dancing classes, we're trying to fix that challenge. But now in the last 2 weeks, it seems the punctuality of the students is improving. The traditional dance students learned the basic dance moves of Saylici, such as clapping and leg moves, they practiced for 2 weeks for different songs- each song has its own rhythm and moves.

Challenges and Recommendations for the life skill classes.

1. Coding class and basic computer are the best ones amount the other life skill classes, students are always on point, they are happy with the contents they are learning, the only challenge those students are facing is not having a personal laptops to practice what they have learned at home, They come to the center on the days they dont have classes, our lap is small and cant accomadate 30+ students at once, also IDP students live far and dont have a fare to come to the center 6 times a week. Distributing a personal laptops to these students would really be an asset, if that's not possible maybe covering their transpotion six times a week would be good, WAAPO only covers the 3 days there are coming to the class not when they are coming to the the practices so they will be comfortable coming to the center everyday.
2. English students are the highest number of students comparing to the other classes, sometimes the classes gets packed, even thought they are 2 level and each othem comes to classes on different day but space is really an issue, no reccomendation yet for this case but its something we need to work on it before resuming classes next.
3. Summer Entrepreneurship students encountered a language barrier even though the content was explained clearly in Somali, however some of the students struggled with understanding the content since it was written in English and therefore focused on understanding the meaning of the words more than understanding the content. The recommended action to this would be to prepare the content both in English and Somali so that those who cannot understand English have access to the Somali version and therefore could use the information on their own.
4. On the Make up classes getting original make-up kits was a bit challenging and costly but we finally managed to buy the products for students.
5. Home Cooking Class in Hargeisa, this class is inclusive to women only, for future we're thinking of including men as well, they have shown an interest in joining this course, we believe its an skill that everyone would benefit from. One challenge that students encountered was the time contrains, the 2 hours is not enough for them also the days(2days) are not enough. If we contuine this course next year we will consider the timing issue.
6. Traditional Dance class were challenging in the beginning, there were an issue of missing students because parents seem not to like their daughters learning this skill, it's a bit



uncultured for them but girls are really interested in continuing the traditional dancing classes, we tried to fix that challenge by talking to the parents. The punctuality of the students is improved at the end. For future recommendation; We would be very selective and chose only those who are committed and interested.

Life Skills participants profile

The targets groups for these classes were an adolescents and youth among the IDPs (80%) and host communities (20%). Aged between 11 and 19 years of age (adolescents) and (18 to 25 Years Old) for youth. Priority were given to survivors of GBV who are current stay in the WAAPO Safe house, Safe house leavers, and Upshift youth beneficiaries incl. children with the conflict of law, adolescents and minorities.