



For immediate release

PRESS RELEASE

Save the Children and Ministry of Employment and Social affairs hosts a national youth employment conference in Hargeisa, Somaliland

Save the Children, in partnership with the Ministry of Employment and Social Affairs of Somaliland, on 29th August 2018, held a National Conference on promoting youth employment in Hargeisa, Somaliland. The two-day conference, attended by the His Excellency the President of Somaliland, provides a platform for key stakeholders including the government, Save the Children, donors, the private sector and civil society to engage and exchange ideas on ways to best promote employment opportunities for the youth.

It is estimated that currently over 60% of the youth in Somaliland are unemployed. The conference will discuss in detail the current situation of youth unemployment in Somaliland; available market opportunities and prevailing challenges. While the focus will be on proposing strategic directions and solutions towards creating employment opportunities for youth, the conference will also explore ways in which the government can create an enabling environment to spur youth employment.

“The national youth employment conference targets to find a way to tackle the current youth unemployment problems in Somaliland. We are committed to creating better employment opportunities and sustainable solutions for our youth to realize a better future. To achieve this, the contribution of everyone including our private sector, donors and civil society is critical. We call upon everyone to come together in creating decent employment opportunities for our youth,” says Miss Hinda Jama, The Minister for Employment and Social Affairs (MEFSA).

With financial support from DANIDA and the European Union, Save the Children, in partnership with MEFSA, have been implementing skills training and employment promotion programs to address challenges of youth unemployment in Somaliland. Early this year, the program supported the Ministry of Employment and Social Affairs to establish the National Employment Forum, which brings together members from the government, private sector, academic sector and developing partners to promote employment opportunities for the youth in Somaliland. The purpose of the forum is to develop clear employment strategies that help reduce the unemployment rate in Somaliland.

“We believe that creating employment opportunities for the youth will reduce poverty and hence create a better future for them. Our skills training programs target the most vulnerable youth groups so that they can get better opportunities to provide for their families and children. In the last three years, we have trained over 730 youth in Somaliland of which 565 of them are now fully employed. We commit to continue with this support to

provide more opportunities for the youth.” said Mohamud Egeh, Deputy Area Representative for Save the Children in Somaliland.

Save the Children is a strategic partner of the Ministry of Employment and Social Affairs in Somaliland. We have worked in Somaliland since the 1950’s, when we set up a vocational school for orphaned boys. Currently, our programs cover Education, Health and Nutrition, Skills Training and Employment Promotion Services, Livelihood/Resilience programs and Child Protection and Child Right Governance.

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For More information, contact:

Mowlid Mudan, Media and Communications manager, Save the Children:
Mowlid.Mudan@savethechildren.org; +252634470781

Saddam Hussein Carab; Communications coordinator, Save the Children
saddam.carab@savethechildren.org; +252634421786