

RESULTS SUMMARY

Youth Advisory Groups (YAG) as advocates of youth leaving care in Somaliland

Author: SOS Children's Village in Denmark, 2025

[Find project on OpenAid](#)

PROJECT	<i>Title:</i>	Leave No Youth Behind
	<i>Partner:</i>	SOS Children's Villages Somaliland
	<i>Country:</i>	Somaliland
	<i>Period:</i>	January 2022 – December 2026

CHANGE	This case study shows how the Leave No Youth Behind project empowered the Youth Advisory Group (YAG) to advocate for youth leaving care. Comprising 16 members from Hargeisa and Burao, the YAG helps reduce the stigma faced by care leavers. Their empowerment fosters advocacy for rights and mentorship of younger children in care. YAG has influenced policies like the Alternative Care Policy and National Youth Policy, ensuring care leavers' voices are heard. This advocacy is expected to continue beyond the project.
--------	--

CONTEXT	Youth in alternative care in Somaliland face challenges in transitioning to independent living, including unemployment and economic hardship. They contend with stigma and discrimination from unclear family ties in a clan-based culture. Those outside youth associations lack access to crucial resources like training and mentorship. Risks are high: girls may face early pregnancies, while boys risk homelessness and radicalization. More boys enter residential care when parental support is lost, reflecting the clan's emphasis on paternal lineage.
---------	---

CONTRIBUTION	Empowering youth structures as advocates for youth leaving care, integrating care leavers with other youth minimizes discrimination and fosters community unity. This amplifies their voices for effective advocacy and participation in decision-making. The project equips youth with skills to overcome political barriers and understand their rights. By holding duty bearers accountable, they can enhance community well-being. The YAG has influenced national policies like the Alternative Care Policy, ensuring comprehensive support for care leavers.
--------------	---

IMAGES	 YAG Civic Engagement Training-Burao	 YAG Advisory Training-SOS Somaliland
--------	--	--

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

ACTIVITIES

During the project period, key activities included training Youth Advisory Group (YAG) members in advocacy, leadership, and communication skills, as well as organizing workshops to enhance their capabilities. The YAG has actively contributed to the development and implementation of national policies related to youth leaving care, such as the Alternative Care Policy and minimum standards of care. They successfully advocated for the inclusion of a clause addressing youth leaving care during the review and update of the national youth policy.

LESSONS

Young people possess the energy and determination to drive change; they require only support and guidance to become effective change-makers. The collaboration between care-experienced youth and their peers has empowered them to advocate for their rights, influencing local authorities and policymakers on decisions that impact their lives.

EVIDENCE

YAG members in Hargeisa and Burao have successfully undergone capacity development, taking ownership of their initiatives to create action plans and execute activities. They are actively engaging with policymakers and have initiated meetings with local governors in Burco and Hargeisa. This commitment demonstrates their dedication to effecting positive change within their communities. One YAG member expressed their passion for advocacy, stating, "We are dedicated to advocating for the rights of young people leaving the care system." Another member added, "I am proud that we successfully advocated for the inclusion of a clause about youth leaving care in the national youth policy review."

DOMAINS

Development strategy priorities:

Insert strategy priority

Changes in the lives of people facing poverty, marginalisation or vulnerability

-

Changes in laws, policies and practices that affect people's rights

Yes

Changes in the capacity of organisations and communities to support rights

-

Changes in partnerships and collaborations that support people's rights

-

Changes in participation of groups facing poverty, marginalisation or vulnerability

Yes

GUIDANCE NOTE

This format consists of two overall sections: on page one, the results summary communicates results to an external audience using a brief summary of what has been achieved; while page two provides an opportunity to explain the background and evidence behind the claims made as part of the summary.

Page 1: Results summary

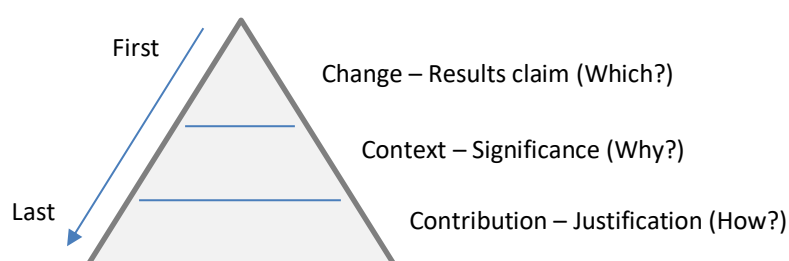
The results summary should outline of the overall change. This should be phrased in a clear and concise manner, focusing on the benefits for target groups or communities, and preferably start out by stating the overall key message as a one-line statement. It is thus important to prioritise what the key message should be and not attempt to describe every possible change that may have occurred.

Note that case studies should not describe all of the activities carried out during the implementation. Instead, it should focus on one or two key messages to be highlighted – which may also span several projects – and only outline activities to backup contributions to the highlighted change.

This can be illustrated as a “reverse funnel.” First, the “change” section introduces the overall results claim, which answers the “which.” Note that this is done before any details have been provided. Second, the “context” section outlines the problem being addressed by the project and the significance of the change. For example, by explaining “why” it benefits target groups or communities.

Finally, and lastly, the “contribution” section should provide examples to justify for “how” the intervention contributed to realising change. Note that this should focus on the plausible linkage between the change and intervention rather than describing details from activities. It is often useful to think of this as a reverse theory-of-change, i.e. “After we did X, then Y occurred, because of Z.”

Figure 1:
Reverse funnel for communication



Page 2: Additional information

The second page should provide background and evidence for project’s contribution to change. It can also address technical issues that do not fit in the results summary. The section consists of the following sections:

- **Activities:** Whereas the “contribution” section on page one provides a brief summary of the project contributions to change, the “activities” section allows for more detail on the project design, organisation and underlying activities in support of the contributions made.
- **Lessons:** Describes lessons learned through the implementation. These should relate to the results claim or alternatively the project(s) as a whole. Please consider (1) novelty – i.e. whether the change represents something new – and (2) the potential to scale and/or build on lessons going ahead.
- **Evidence:** A narrative comparison between results claims and the underlying evidence. It should answer “X led to Y, because of Z,” although it does not need to be phrased this way. It is useful to include references to a few selected documents for further details. Please see guidelines for more.
- **Domains and development strategy:** Describes contributions to defined domains and the Danish development strategy. Please consider limiting the number of domains to a few selected ones.

