

# RESULTS SUMMARY

Restoring Hope Through Mental Health and Psychosocial Support

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PROJECT	<i>Title:</i>	Leave No Youth Behind Project.
	<i>Partner:</i>	SOS Children’s Villages Somaliland.
	<i>Country:</i>	Somaliland
	<i>Period:</i>	Jan 2022 – December 2026

**CHANGE**

Hassan’s life shifted from deep emotional distress and social withdrawal to a renewed sense of safety, belonging, and emotional stability. Before receiving support he struggled with persistent sadness, anxiety, and difficulty trusting others. This affected his ability to engage in school, build relationships, and feel secure. Hassan is more confident and emotionally resilient now. He actively participates in group activities at the rehabilitation center, engages positively with peers and caregivers, and developed coping skills that help him manage stress anxiety.


**CONTEXT**

Hassan, a 15-year-old at Somaliland’s Maxamed Mooge Rehabilitation Center, lacked parental care early on and was referred there after surviving on the streets through casual labor and informal support. He faced loss, instability, and disrupted development. Before intervention, he was withdrawn, had sleep issues, and struggled to trust others. Limited access to mental health and psychosocial support left his emotional needs mostly unmet.


**CONTRIBUTION**

Through WAAPO and SOS Children’s Villages Somaliland’s Leave No Youth Behind Project, Hassan received targeted MHPSS: one-on-one counselling, child-friendly group activities, and a nurturing center environment. Caregivers and teachers were trained to offer consistent emotional support and recognize distress. These efforts addressed his emotional needs and supported his recovery.

**IMAGES**



One-on-on counselling



Child-friendly group activity

See next page for more details →

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

### ACTIVITIES

WAAPO counsellors held structured individual sessions with Hassan, helping him express feelings and process past trauma. He joined group psychosocial activities to build peer interaction and mutual support. Caregivers and teachers received trauma-informed care training. Over time, Hassan engaged more in school and recreation, eventually joining the centre's football team, which provided a positive outlet and stronger community belonging.

### LESSONS

Hassan's experience demonstrates the importance of integrating mental health and psychosocial support into programmes for children without parental care. It shows that when children are supported through consistent counselling, safe spaces, and caring relationships, they can rebuild trust, strengthen emotional resilience, and re-engage with their surroundings. The case reinforces the value of holistic, child-centred approaches that combine individual support with capacity-building for caregivers and educators.

### EVIDENCE

Hassan now shows improved emotional regulation, reduced anxiety, and greater engagement in daily activities. He participates in class, interacts positively with peers, and seeks support when needed. Centre staff report noticeable improvements in their confidence and sense of security. These outcomes are directly linked to the MHPSS interventions delivered through the Leave No Youth Behind Project. Hassan's progress provides clear evidence that accessible, well-designed psychosocial support can significantly improve the well-being and social inclusion of children without parental care in challenging contexts.

### DOMAINS

<i>Development strategy priorities:</i>	<i>Insert strategy priority</i>
<i>Changes in the lives of people facing poverty, marginalisation or vulnerability</i>	+
<i>Changes in laws, policies and practices that affect people's rights</i>	-
<i>Changes in the capacity of organisations and communities to support rights</i>	+
<i>Changes in partnerships and collaborations that support people's rights</i>	+
<i>Changes in participation of groups facing poverty, marginalisation or vulnerability</i>	+
<i>Changes in local leadership of development and humanitarian work</i>	+