



Puntland Youth and Social development Association (PSA)

5-YEAR STRATEGIC PLAN 2015 - 2020

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This is a five-year strategic plan for the Puntland Youth and Social Development Association (PSA) for the period 2015-2020. The plan is informed by both international and national important development policy and legal frameworks. It is by Millennium Development Goals and National Strategy for Growth and Reduction of Poverty.

Puntland Youth and Social Development Association (PSA) is local non-governmental, established in 2002 by a group of enthusiastic young educated members of society. This was after being alarmed by the devastation of war and natural disasters and the subsequent political instability. Many were orphaned at a tender age, dropping out of school.

PSA was started with the hope that in the Youth lay immense potential for self protection and national development. Youth offered an excellent avenue to restore the nation back to its course of independence, stability and development.

The document serves as a road map for programming and operationalizing activities of the organization over the coming five years.

2. Vision

An environment where youth **move together** playing a pivotal role in the self preservation, enlightenment of others and peaceful co-existence amongst groups in contributing positively to development.

3. Mission statement

PSA exists to mobilize, nurture and support youth to **collectively** appreciate and uphold universally positive values like peace, human rights, freedom, family stability, peaceful and effective governance structures, environmental conservation, positive culture and improved livelihoods for all.

4. Our Programmes principles

- Unity of purpose and assembly
- Youth for Youth:
- Equity and equality:
- Sustainable empowerment:
- Collaboration with stakeholders
- Promotion of accountability

5. Our Core values

- Relevance:
- Impact:
- Effectiveness:
- Efficiency & Accountability:

- Coordination , Cooperation and Trust:

6. Thematic areas

- Reconciliation and Peace building
- Child protection
- Human rights , gender and Protection of the girl-child and women
- Improved livelihoods through micro-loans and training
- Support to the education sector
- Health promotion including water and sanitation
- Infrastructural development and renovation

7. Strategic objectives

- Increase youth awareness in the involvement and promotion of peace and stability.
- Build intergenerational dialogue between youth and adults.
- Support the education sector through promoting quality education.
- Provide psychosocial support services.
- Provide career guidance on marketable courses, institutions of higher learning in the region and solicit and avail tuition bursaries for talented but needy students.
- Lobbying for laws for the protection of children.
- Facilitate access to quality health services through increased participation of youth in volunteer and professional health service provision.
- Raise youth awareness and collectively condemn cultural harmful practices like FGM and early and forced marriage
- Promote youth employment opportunities through provision of market driven skills and increased access to employment opportunities
- Promote positive aspects of Somalia cultural and unity by organizing cultural events and inculcating a sense of opening up to tolerate people of different cultures, race and religion in our midst.

1. Priority Strategy Areas

The Puntland State provides a framework for National Youth Policy for all agencies and organizations working for youth development. This Policy categorizes the key strategies into eleven themes, each with a set of priority interventions.

1.1 EDUCATION SKILLS & TRAINING

Quality education and training is an important aspect of sustainable social and economic development.

Strategic Objective 1:

Continue the emphasis on building a quality education system that is affordable to all through strengthening the infrastructure of educational institutions and acquisition of instructional resources.

Strategic Objective 2:

Enhance the educational opportunities for all young Puntlanders to all levels of the educational system which is commensurate with their interests and abilities, through achieving universal free primary schooling system, introducing mobile schools in rural areas and introducing a school nutritional and feeding program in all schools.

Strategic Objective 3:

Ensure gender equity in educational participation through developing awareness campaigns targeting parents and community, political and religious leaders about the importance of education for girls and young women, develop and implement a plan to increase the number of qualified female teachers and develop non formal education options as an alternative for out of school youth.

Strategic Objective 4:

Review and revise the school curriculum to reflect the values and economic needs and opportunities of Puntland through strengthening the infrastructure of educational institutions and acquisition of instructional resources, placing greater emphasis on ICT training through new curriculum and equipment, introducing career education services, creating stronger educational linkages with the private sector and introduce training in self-employment including school entrepreneurship programs.

1.2 YOUTH PARTICIPATION & LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

All major international declarations relating to youth development and empowerment stress the need for a national environment that enables young people to actively participate in leadership and as an organization we have multi pronged strategy to address it through:

Strategic Objective 1:

Strengthen the awareness of young people and the wider community regarding active and responsible citizenship through strengthen school curriculum relating to citizenship and Islamic values education, encourage initiatives which engage young people in the practice of mutual respect and tolerance, including gender equality, provide forums and training opportunities for young people to develop leadership skills and identify and implement programs and actions that build national patriotism.

Strategic Objective 2:

Provide support for young people to actively participate in community life through encouraging and supporting programs that encourage and offer community service, volunteerism, and youth peer support, instigate an annual National Youth Awards Program that recognizes the contribution of young people to community and national life, lobby for reducing age limit for parliamentary contestants to 25, build and enhance the capacity of youth organizations / groups, establish a Puntland youth network which actively promotes awareness and empowerment of young people in Puntland.

Strategic Objective 3:

Recognize the importance of the *Convention on the Rights of the Child* and the fulfillment- of its obligations by encouraging Somalia to become a signatory to the CRC and monitor fulfillment of CRC obligations.

1.3 DISARMAMENT, SECURITY & PEACE BUILDING

Young people expressed during the regional consultation process an understanding the fundamental need to achieve disarmament, security and peace building.

Strategic Objective 1:

We plan to implement a national disarmament program which will be done through involving young people in a process of designing and implementing a national disarmament program, peace reconciliation and conflict resolutions, providing alternative training and employment programs targeting child/youth soldiers and providing skills building and working opportunities to encourage the disengagement of youth in armed activities.

Strategic Objective 2:

Develop a campaign strategy to discourage piracy and ransom through planning and implementing a campaign that will lower piracy and ransom taking this will be pegged around religious awareness and also in implementing education, training and job creation alternatives.

Strategic Objective 3:

Develop awareness of peace building through campaigns that will motivate youth organizations to be involved in peace building programs, formulation of national educational curriculum peace building courses, organize a annual youth peace conference and create a youth organization that is dedicated to, and works for peace.

1.4 SUSTAINABLE LIVLIHOODS & YOUTH EMPLOYMENT

Through various research studies and other source of data, unemployment and the need for job creation initiatives has been cited as the issue of greatest of concern to young Puntlanders.

Strategic Objective 1:

Design and implement a National Youth Employment Action Plan in which we will learn from international best practice in terms of sustainable livelihoods and youth employment, adapt as a framework that advocates for the youth employment network, promote and support youth self employment as a job option through the creation of education projects, training courses and a youth self employment fund, initiate projects to explore training opportunities and youth employment in specific sectors – ICT, farming, fisheries, arts and crafts, explore ways to improve connection between education and training institutions and the labor markets including the introduction of career education and counseling, target school drop outs through programs that will link them more effectively with the labor market and identify and promote opportunities for Diaspora giving and investments that specifically targets youth employment opportunities.

1.5 RECREATION, SPORTS, YOUTH CENTRES, ARTS & CULTURE

Under the Puntland Youth Policy, it strongly advocates for the need to increase the number and diversity of sports, recreation, arts and cultural development opportunities for young women and men. Such activities contribute to building healthy lifestyles, leadership development and skills enhancement and as an organization, we plan to achieve it through:

Strategic Intervention 1:

Design and implement a Multi-Purpose Youth and Sports Centre Program through initiate an infrastructure development project that results in establishment of multi purpose youth and sports centers throughout Puntland over the five year period, create linkages between schools and youth and sports centre programs to maximize usage of facilities, create professional and volunteer youth and sports leadership training programs to ensure centers have trained personnel, develop sporting associations and competitions at local, regional and national levels, design and implement a strategy to increase dramatically the number of female recreation spaces (centres, playgrounds) and in establishing a network of youth centres throughout Puntland.

Strategic Objective 2:

Enhance the knowledge, understanding and appreciation of young people regarding Somali culture, history and the Islamic faith.

1.6 HEALTHY LIFESTYLES

Health and healthy lifestyles is a major issue of concern to Puntland young men and women. Overall, health services are totally inadequate. It is estimated that over 90% of the health infrastructure was seriously damaged and most equipment and supplies looted during and after the civil war.

The key health issue for young people during the consultation phase was khat addiction followed by concerns about HIV/AIDS and malnutrition. The issues raised will be addressed through:

Strategic Objective 1:

Enable all young people to be able to access information, education and counseling services in the areas of youth health priorities through creating a youth health service that provides preventative health support in the form of information, education and counseling services in such areas as reproductive health, drug abuse, sexual abuse and sexual transmitted diseases, scale up health and nutrition feeding initiatives within schools, Campaign to eradicate harmful traditional practices, e.g., female genital mutilation (FGM), generate improved strategic information and data about youth health status and challenges, Improve access of health services to nomadic youth and other disadvantaged youth populations.

Strategic Objective 2:

Mobilization and sensitization on Khat chewing and smoking, this will be done through use media campaigns and peer education programs to raise awareness of the hazards of khat, pass legislation and by laws to limit khat chewing and smoking and ban smoking and khat chewing in all educational, youth and sporting institutions.

Strategic Objective 3:

Prevent and control the spread of HIV/AIDS and militate against their social impacts through regularly gather, analyse and disseminate information about the HIV/Aids epidemic, target the most at risk populations with high quality prevention, treatment and core services, upgrade training of youth health service providers to work efficiently with the most at risk populations and in increasing the number of VCT centres and strengthen the capacity of the staff and services.

1.7 SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT & THE ENVIRONMENT

Sustainable development and the environment is a growing concern of young Puntlanders. The consultation processes strongly endorsed the need for more focus and activities related to climate change, soil degradation, water conservation, charcoal use, deforestation, recycling, plastic bag elimination, heritage protection and other environmental preservation activities.

Strategic Objective 1:

Enhance environmental knowledge and awareness among young Puntlanders through enhancing school curriculum in regard to environmental education and project work, introducing teacher in service training related to environmental education and project work and developing youth media campaigns to promote environmental awareness and action by young people.

Strategic Objective 2:

Encourage the active involvement and leadership by young people in environmental initiatives through initiating special days, events and awards that encourage and celebrate youth involvement in sustainable development and environmental projects, encourage young people in the promotion of community environmental practices, foster youth community service and volunteer initiatives based on environmental protection and enhancement, Organize regular national and regional youth forums on sustainable development and the environment and foster alternative job creation initiatives within the areas of recycling, plastic bag alternatives, reforestation and heritage conservation.

1.8 GENDER & HUMAN RIGHTS

The Transitional Constitution of Puntland Regional Government, explicitly advocates for the rights of all the citizens, irrespective of their age, gender or any other aspect. This rights are summarized into strategic objectives.

Strategic Objective 1:

Identify and focus on specific actions which deny young women enjoying their rights to health, recreational, educational and employment opportunities through research on inclusiveness of policies and practices related to health, recreational, educational and employment opportunities through instigating specific initiatives to strengthen the participation of young women in – health services, secondary and tertiary education, sport and recreational activities and employment.

We will also advocate for legislation against FGM and early marriage.

Strategic Objective 2:

We will support young Puntlanders to become aware of their rights and obligations by developing youth friendly materials on human rights and obligations which will include gender and human rights within citizenship in school curriculum, instigate national and regional forums on gender and human rights, regularly review legislation and laws regarding the protection of children and young people, and update accordingly, encourage and support initiatives which engage young people in the practice of tolerance and mutual respect.

1.9 CIVIC EDUCATION

Civic education relates to the awareness of the rights and responsibilities of citizenship. Currently no such curriculum activity exists within Puntland's education system, as an organization we will lobby for a policy that will help young people to play an vibrant role in the democratization of Puntland.

Strategic Objective 1:

Develop appropriate school and community based civic education curriculum, resource materials and awareness activities.

1.1.0 IMMIGRATION & THE DIASPORA

Due to poverty, lack of employment and continuing war related stress many puntlanders have continue to immigrate to other regions. Many are illegal immigrants who take extreme risks to reach their dream of a better life. The root causes of this continuous immigration need to be addressed through:

Strategic Objective 1:

Developing labor market relevant TVET options and engaging young people in designing alternative futures.

Strategic Objective 2:

Convene an annual conference of the Diaspora with a focus on youth development initiatives, encourage young Somali members of the Diaspora to return back to Puntland to utilise their newly acquired skills in short and long term projects, promote the National Youth Policy Development Fund (see below) to the Diaspora and encourage them to contribute and create a Puntland youth website that targets young Somali's both in Puntland and part of the Diaspora.

1.1.1 ICT & GLOBALISATION

The policy strongly endorses the need for young people to become beneficiaries of the growing ICT industry sector in Puntland, ICT being an integral part of the world of today's youth, including young Puntlanders.

Strategic Objective 1:

Develop ICT as a key focus in school curriculum reform, where we will develop appropriate curriculum for the teaching of ICT at all levels of education in developing and implementing a plan for equipping schools with appropriate technology.

Strategic Objective 2:

Focus on ICT as a key youth job creation area where we will undertake it in cooperation with ILO a study of the ICT sector regarding job creation development with the support of private sector in encouraging youth self employment initiatives related to the ICT sector.

Strategic Objective 3:

Strengthen initiatives related to youth and media through expand opportunities for youth broadcasting programs in which will support the employment of young journalists in all forms of media.