

# Youth Engagement and Empowerment Programme

## YEEP Africa 2023-2024



### PRESS RELEASE

#### YOUTH ENGAGEMENT AND EMPOWERMENT PROGRAMME ON PREVENTING AND COUNTERING VIOLENT EXTREMISM LAUNCHED IN SOMALIA

**New York, 14 March 2024** – The Youth Engagement and Empowerment Programme (YEEP), which aims at fostering meaningful engagement with young people for a safer, more resilient communities, was launched in Somalia. The virtual launch was organized by the United Nations Global Programme on Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism (PCVE) and TUBSAN - Somalia’s National Counter Terrorism Centre for Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism.

This meeting marked the start of an intensive training and mentoring programme of several young leaders from across Somalia. These young leaders will be supported through five capacity-building phases, which include: online training, capacity-building workshops, peer-to-peer engagements, capacity-building on data analysis to develop policy recommendations, and a National Policy Dialogue.

The YEEP Somalia series of activities respond to the pillar of the Somali national strategy on PCVE dedicated to community engagement, and more specifically to the objectives on youth resilience.

At the launch, TUBSAN’s Director H.E Abdullahi M. Nor, highlighted that *“TUBSAN is committed to developing specific youth focused and youth led programming, to bolster the dignity and participation of Somali young women and men in the PCVE context, noting that partnerships such as this with UNOCT, are vital in ensuring cohesive collaboration under TUBSAN’s guidance.”*

Ms. Denise Lifton, Chief of Section on PCVE thanked all partners for their unwavering commitment to the delivery of YEEP Somalia and stressed that *“terrorist organizations and violent extremist groups not only target youth with their acts of violence, but also make strategic investments to target young people with recruitment efforts globally. As such, inclusion of young women and men in the development of PCVE efforts at an early stage was a top priority for the United Nations, particularly in the context of Our Common Agenda and Agenda 2030 and Secretary-General’s Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism.”*

The launch marks the start of the second phase of YEEP Africa, following successful implementation of the first phase in Nigeria. YEEP will be implemented in a third African country later this year. The project aims to engage

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with more than 75 young African leaders from three countries and seeks to build their skills to contribute to PCVE efforts so that they may assume more prominent roles in their community on cross-cutting issues related to PCVE.

YEEP Africa will culminate in a regional policy dialogue in 2024 that will bring together young people from all three countries, who have been part of this initiative, to share their experiences and lessons learned and seek opportunities for wider regional collaboration. Subsequently, young leaders from the three African countries will join a YEEP Alumni network to continue to build on the engagement and PCVE skills learnt through YEEP Africa.

YEEP Somalia is generously supported by the United Nations Peace and Development Trust Fund (UNPDF) and is implemented by the United Nations Global Programme on Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism (PCVE) of the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Center within the Office of Counter-Terrorism in partnership with the Global Community Engagement and Resilience Fund (GCERF), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Regional Office for Eastern Africa, United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and a local civil society organization.

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