



## SOMALILAND JOB FAIR NARRATIVE REPORT

Activity	Two Days job Fair Event in Buroa -Togdheer Region
Objective	Creating Jobs and internships opportunities for youth job seekers
Target group	Youth unemployed including; returnees, and host community
Funded Agency	Employment partners
Implemented Agency	Ministry of Employment, Social Affairs and Family (MESAF)

**Date** 30<sup>th</sup> -31<sup>st</sup> July 2022



## Introduction

The Ministry of Employment, Social affairs and Family (MESAF) organized two days job fair at Buroa Togdheer region, Somaliland from 30<sup>th</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup> July 2022. This Job fair brought together around 30 employers including business sectors, private banks, development partners, universities and government agencies, while more than 2000 youth job seekers across the country also attended in the event to avail the opportunity. The key primary objective intended for such job fair is in twofold. The first aim was to create an enabling environment for youth are now looking for new careers while later was to provide opportunities, build networking and information sharing with interested job-seekers. Such opportunities were included business provision of startup grants, and job opportunities, as well as labor market information dissemination.

The job fair has come across long preparation process to deliver successful job fair that can produce comprehensive opportunities to Somaliland youth job seekers particularly those who are in Togdheer region and beyond. Prior the private sector engagement the Ministry of Employment, Social Affairs and Family mapped out all the available opportunities intended for youth job seekers. Furthermore, several consultative meetings were conducted to bring on board all the relevant stakeholders including development partners, employers and other private sector partners.

The job fair is part of government strategy to address the youth unemployment in Somaliland. A massive number of university graduates are unemployed due to the limited job opportunities in the labor markets while the mismatch of labor market demands and university graduate skills exacerbated the situation and contributed the high number of youth unemployment in Somaliland. Despite the job fair, government developed a number of key policies facilitating enabling environment for private sector to make investments in order generate job opportunities. National employment policy, investment policy and SME policy are among government instruments designated to tackle youth unemployment in the country.

The job fair put on special consideration to the youth returnees who are currently active in the labour market and seeking jobs to participate in the job fair and harness the job fair opportunities. MESAF in partnership with IOM effectively engaged youth returnees in Buroa to attend and benefit the job fair opportunities.

Furthermore, Senior government officials graced the job fair event including the minister of employment social affairs and family, minister of interior, Minister of Livestock and Fishery,

Ministry of Justice, and Minister of Constitutional Affairs. This was the first job fair conducted outside Hargeisa and planned to take place in Buroa Togdheer region of Somaliland. Jobs and internships opportunities are very limited in western regions while youth unemployment is on the peak. In this regard, the Ministry decided and mobilized a plenty of opportunities including paid jobs, internships, and business startup grants to the youth job seekers. Despite job opportunities, a crucial information regarding the labor market shared and disseminated across the job fair. In addition to that panel discussion about preparing youth job seekers to harness labour market opportunities delivered in the second day of the job fair.

### Objectives of the job fair

- The primary objective of the job fair was to make a network between employers and job seekers to generate jobs, internships and other opportunities for youth job seekers including returnees.
- The job fair also serves as a platform exchanging labor market information and providing career guidance to university graduates participated in the job.
- Encouraging youth job seekers to focus on innovations, entrepreneurship, and technology to harness vast opportunities in the labor market where among the objectives of the job fair.

### Opening Remarks

The Mayor of Buroa districts officially welcomed the delegation and participants attend at the job fair. He thanked to the Ministry of Employment, Social Affairs and Family for orchestrating this wonderful job fair in Buroa, as well as private sector companies attended. The Director General Ministry of Employment Social Affairs and Family (MESAF) underscored the objectives of the job fair which is to bring together employers and job seekers to create employment, opportunities, and disseminate information regarding the labor markets. The Director General stressed the role of government on employment creation, the main role of government is to create an enabling environment that facilitate private sector to easily make investment and generate jobs and other economic opportunities for Somaliland youth.

The Governor of Togdheer region urges employers to put emphases on youth job seekers from Togdheer region since the employment opportunities are limited to Togdheer region. Ministers from Interior, Livestock and Fishery, Justice, and Constitutional Affairs delivered their remarks regarding the job fair. Generally, they commended MESAF for organizing the job fair and called youth to activity participate in the two days of job fair and harness the employment opportunities demonstrated by the employers and other private sector companies attended at the job fair. finally, the Minister of Employment Social Affairs and Family officially graced the Event and high

## Opportunities Announcement

The initial stage of the job fair employers participated in the event announced a plenty of opportunities intended to offer youth job seekers through competitive and transparent process. Over 20 employers announced paid jobs, internships, and startup grants for those who have innovative business ideas. Government official and high number of youth job seekers were witnessed these remarkable announcements. Employers highlighted that the screening and recruitment process of these announced vacancies will wrap up within 10 days. Thus, the following table is capturing the lists of employers and the number of opportunities announced.

S/N	Name	Jobs	Internships	Grants	#Labor Market info
1	Amal Bank		40		2000+
2	Premier bank		5		
3	SOLTECO		40		
4	Najax construction	5	10		
5	Alpha University		30		
6	Telesom	15	110		
7	Somtel		120		
8	Upshift	4	4	150	
9	Local Municipality Buroa		250		
10	Sahal Transportation		50		
11	Som-cable		30		
12	Laas Group	5	10		
13	HECO	5	10		
14	Havoyoco		6		
15	MESAF		250		
16	Geedi Group	4	4		
17	Ilays	5	10		
18	Laas – Group	5	5		

## Job fair results

- It was first job fair conducted in Buroa and participated over 30 employers and massive number of youth job seekers. The job fair went successfully and it was two days event. The Ministry of Employment Social Affairs and Family in partnership with employment stakeholders organized the job fair. The ultimate goal of this activity was to create job s and internships opportunities for youth job seekers from across Somaliland regions. The



job fair was inclusive and engaged for female job seekers, disability and youth returnees in Buroa.

- The job fair provided long term jobs and short-term internships opportunities for youth job seekers, almost 87 youth job seekers got paid jobs, 825 job seekers got internships placement and 150 youth entrepreneurs will get start up grants based on their business ideas.
- Furthermore, the job fair facilitated a dialogue session delivered crucial information regarding labor market opportunities. In addition to that a panel of experts shared experience and career guidance to the youth job seekers attended at the job fair.

### Recommendation

- The preparatory discussions with the employers raised that job fair timeline is not compatible with their recruitment season, usually they announce their vacancies in January each year, therefore it's highly necessary to organize the job fair at the beginning of each probably January or February to mobilize massive opportunities in terms of paid jobs, internships and apprentices for youth unemployed across the country.
- Due to the limited preparation timing vital sector where not engaged and haven't participated in the job fair including health industry, remittance, small and medium industries, Agro business sector, as well as livestock and fishery sector. The next job fair it's crucial to ensure the participation of these aforementioned sectors which are important creating decent jobs for youth job seekers.

### Conclusion

It was the first time that Ministry of Employment, Social Affairs and Family (MESAF) organized a job fair event in Buroa which is the second largest city in Somaliland. Buroa hosts high number of youths who are unemployed. Due to these circumstance Ministry planned and conducted a comprehensive job fair in Burao to generate job opportunities for youth job seekers. The job fair went successfully and produced fruitful opportunities for youth job seekers participated in the job fair.

High level delegation from the Somaliland government ministers attended in the event and retreated government commitment towards generating jobs and economic opportunities for Somaliland youth. The government pledged to accelerate and double its efforts towards youth employment creation by effective implementation of national employment policy, and national internship policy. Additionally, they underscored several programs that are currently underway including the port of Maydh and fish processing industry in Berbera. Those mega projects will create massive employment opportunities for Somaliland youth.

In conclusion, the job fair produced employment opportunities for youth job seekers who participate in the two days of the job fair program. Almost 87 youth unemployed got decent jobs, and 825 youth got internships placement, while 150 youth entrepreneurs will get an investment to their business ideas.



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SOMALILAND JOB FAIR 30<sup>TH</sup> -31<sup>ST</sup> JULY 2022**

**COMMUNIQUE**

The Ministry of Employment, Social affairs and Family (MESAF) organized two days job fair at Buroa Togdheer region, Somaliland from 30<sup>th</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup> July 2022. This Job fair brought together around 30 employers including business sectors, private banks, development partners, universities and government agencies, while more than 2000 youth job seekers across the country also attended in the event to avail the opportunities. The key primary objective intended for such job fair is in twofold. The first aim was to create an enabling environment for youth are now looking for new careers while latter was to provide opportunities, build networking and information sharing with interested job-seekers. Such opportunities were included business provision of startup grants, and job opportunities, as well as labor market information dissemination. Finally, the following communique was agreed and released out during the wrapping up of the event;

1. The job fair thanks to the employers who participated in the two days event including universities, private banks, development partners and other private companies.
2. The job fair appreciates to the local authorities for both at regional and district levels, including Togdheer Governor and Mayor of Buroa city for their magnificent role during the course of this job fair. Indeed, MESAF, as the organizer, thanks to anyone who supported the job fair including the management and devoted staff of the Ministry of Employment, Social Affairs & Family whom actually without their effort and advisory role could have not been possible to organize this fruitful and wonderful event.
3. During the two days job fair were clearly demonstrated a plenty of opportunities including well-paid jobs, potential internships, business startups, and information which can be found in the labor market opportunities.
4. The job fair encourages Somaliland youth to join and learn technical and vocational skills which are currently needed in the local markets. the job fair underscores the importance of learning the technological skills to harness opportunities available in the global tech market.
5. The job fair calls to the employers to strongly enhance and support the internship opportunities providing for universities graduates in accordance with Somaliland National Internship Policy (NIP).
6. The job fair urges and put strong emphasis that job seekers to focus on entrepreneurship and come up innovations to utilize the available opportunities regarding investments on business startups.
7. The job fair created the following opportunities; 87 youth job seekers who have been granted paid jobs, and 825 for internship placement, while 150 youth entrepreneurs received business startup fund support.
8. Finally, the job fair is grateful to the involved youth from Togdher region for their active and full participation in the two days long job fair at Buroa.

**THE END**





