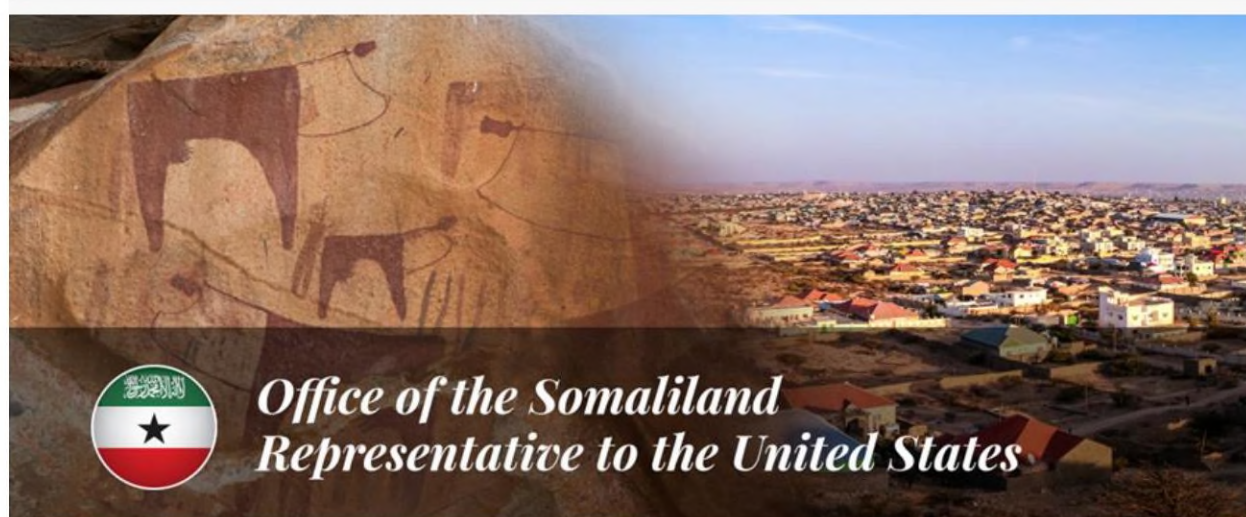


**From:** Somaliland Mission to the U.S.  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 15, 2023  
**Subject:** SOMALILAND FALL UPDATE – NOVEMBER 2023



## **SOMALILAND FALL UPDATE – NOVEMBER 2023**

Dear friends,

I am pleased to share that in recent months, Somaliland and Taiwan have continued to strengthen our relationship through diplomatic engagement, cultural exchanges and educational cooperation. Her Excellency Dr. Edna Adan Ismail recently led a delegation to Taiwan for meetings with government officials to celebrate Somaliland's multi-faceted partnership with Taiwan and reaffirm our mutual commitment to strengthening this bilateral relationship. While in Taiwan, Dr. Adan was recognized by President Tsai Ing-Wen as a recipient of the Chou Ta-Kuan Cultural and Educational Foundation's 26th Fervent Global Love of Lives Award.

In this newsletter, I am proud to recap two of Dr. Adan's most recent recognitions on the international stage. This newsletter also highlights notable internal developments in Somaliland, including the commencement of construction on a new oil reserve facility and mental health hospital. It also details exciting developments in the technology space, featuring stories about investments aimed at improving the health and education of Somalilanders.

Should you have any questions or wish to speak further about any of the below developments, please do not hesitate to reach out.

Warm regards,

Bashir Goth, Somaliland Representative to the United States



## *Ministry of Trade and Tourism hosts 2nd Somaliland Economic Forum*

In October, President Muse Bihi opened the second Somaliland Economic Forum, hosted by Somaliland’s Ministry of Trade and Tourism. With a theme of “Investing in Diversification and Modernization,” the two-day event brought together government officials, economists and academics, business leaders and other thought leaders to exchange ideas and discuss Somaliland’s economic future. The forum consisted of several panels and presentations about attracting sustainable foreign investment, the Berbera Economic Corridor’s economic potential and additional topics related to trade.

Some notable quotes from the forum include:

*“We need unity and productivity to ensure economic growth in Somaliland.” – H.E. Mohamoud Hassan Sa’ad, Minister of Trade and Tourism*

*“Somaliland’s Ministry of Agricultural Development aims to empower farmers and agro-pastoral communities in the country. ... I extend my most sincere appreciation to the Somaliland diaspora who have returned to the country and developed flourishing agribusinesses.” – H.E. Abdiqadir Iman Warsame, Minister of Agricultural Development*

*“Somaliland is currently facing various economic challenges however; I am certain we will overcome them very soon” – Dr. Osman Sheikh Ahmed Nuur, Economist*

[Read more](#)



## *Her Excellency Dr. Edna Adan leads delegation to Taiwan*

In September, Her Excellency Dr. Edna Adan Ismail traveled to Taiwan for a meeting with President Tsai Ing-Wen where she received the 26th Fervent Global Love of Lives Award from the Chou Ta-Kuan Cultural and Educational Foundation. President Tsai convened the award’s 21 recipients, who were selected for overcoming difficult circumstances with courage and optimism. Dr. Adan, accompanied by Dr. Mohamed Hagi, Somaliland’s Ambassador to Taiwan, was also selected to serve as the guest speaker for the ceremony.

President Tsai acknowledged Dr. Adan’s life and impact, noting that, “with tremendous willpower, she became the first certified midwife from Somaliland and

also went on to establish a modern hospital. Working to dispel outdated customs and myths and dedicating herself to reducing maternal and child mortality, she has changed the fate of many for the better.” [Read more](#)



While in Taiwan, Dr. Adan also met with Foreign Minister Joseph Wu. Dr. Adan and Minister Wu praised Somaliland and Taiwan’s shared values of democracy and human rights and reaffirmed the governments’ commitment to expanding their strong partnership. Following the meeting, Taiwan’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs said, “Somaliland is an important friendly country for Taiwan in the East African region, and the foreign ministry will continue to promote various exchanges and cooperation with Somaliland to deepen the friendship between the two countries.” [Read more](#)



Finally, Dr. Adan and Amb. Dr. Mohamed Hagi met with postgraduate students from Somaliland studying on scholarship in Taiwan, one of the many fruitful exchanges demonstrating Somaliland and Taiwan's strong partnership. They encouraged the students to maximize their experience in Taiwan and continue their pursuit of academic excellence. [Read more](#)

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TEMPLETON PRIZE

## Dr. Edna Adan Ismail Receives 2023 Templeton Prize



2023 Templeton Prize Winner Edna Adan Ismail photographed in London by Tim Cole for the Templeton Prize.

### *Dr. Edna Adan becomes first African woman to be awarded prestigious Templeton Prize*

Somaliland's esteemed Dr. Edna Adan Ismail has been awarded the 2023 Templeton Prize, one of the world's largest annual individual awards. She was bestowed with this award in recognition of her trailblazing career as a nurse-midwife, hospital founder and health care advocate working to change cultural, religious and medical norms surrounding women's health in East Africa.

In announcing this prize, the Templeton Foundation [wrote](#) that Dr. Adan "receives this year's award in recognition of her extraordinary efforts to harness the power of the sciences to affirm the dignity of women and help them to flourish physically and spiritually." Heather Templeton Dill, president of the John Templeton Foundation, added that Dr. Adan "has used the teachings of her faith, family and scientific education to improve the health and opportunities of some of the world's most

vulnerable women and girls. She has employed her many positions of authority to argue passionately that female circumcision is against the teachings of Islam, and deeply harmful to women.”

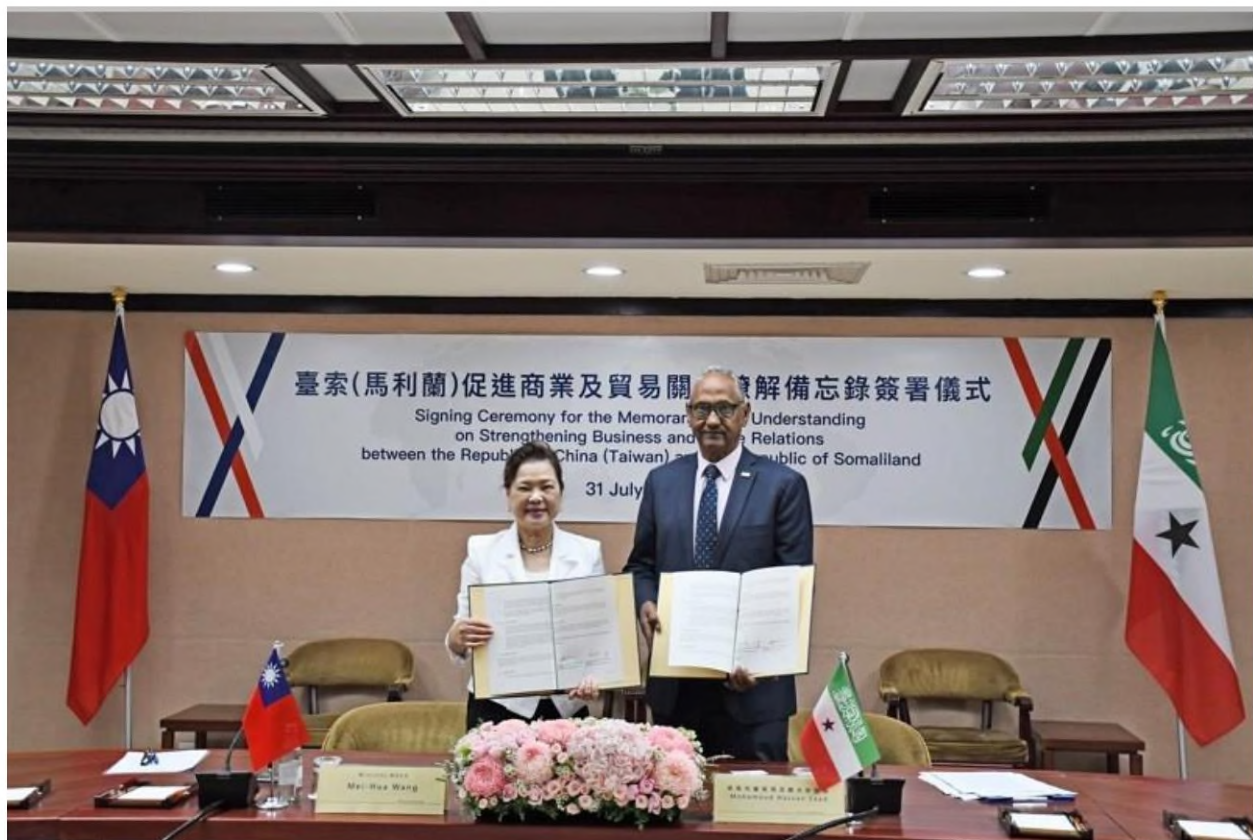
Dr. Adan told the Associated Press she would donate a portion of the \$1.4 million prize money to the U.S.-based Friends of Edna Maternity Hospital to purchase new equipment, hire educators and train “the next generation of health care workers that East Africa so desperately needs.” [Read more](#)

Dr. Adan is the first African woman to win the prize. *The Wall Street Journal* profiled Dr. Adan in August, a story highlighting her life, career and the incredible strides that have been made through her advocacy for women’s health and economic empowerment in Africa. [Read more](#)



## *Deputy Head of British Office in Hargeisa visits Berbera Corridor, touts “huge opportunities”*

In September, Deputy Head of the British Office in Hargeisa Christina Toepell visited the Berbera Corridor to tour the Port of Berbera and Special Economic Zone. She also met with private and local representatives in the region. Toepell expressed optimism around the potential of Berbera, tweeting that “huge opportunities for renewable energy, logistics and light manufacturing across Somaliland – if we get the investment climate right. Excited for the work ahead!” [Read more](#)



## *Somaliland and Taiwan ink MOU on trade cooperation*

In July, Taiwan and Somaliland signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) to boost trade and commerce ties, the first such pact between the two countries. The agreement was signed by Taiwan’s Minister of Economic Affairs Wang Mei-hua and Somaliland’s Minister of Commerce, Industries, and Tourism Mohamoud Hassan Saad during a five-day visit by Minister Saad to Taiwan. Minister Wang said Taiwanese

businesses have expressed interest in Somaliland's fishing and mining industries. The MOU will pave the way for the development of trade partnerships between the two governments. [Read more](#)



## *Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency provides assistance to Somaliland farmers*

In August, the Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency (TİKA) provided assistance, in the form of seed and fertilizer, to 100 farmers across Somaliland. The effort was carried out in cooperation with the Somaliland Ministry of Agriculture as part of the Agricultural Development and Fight Against Drought Project. The project began in 2021 with the distribution of motor pumps and agricultural equipment to Somaliland farmers. [Read more](#)

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## *Two dozen Somaliland students receive Taiwan scholarships*

In August, the Taiwan Representative Office in Somaliland awarded 25 Somalilander students – including seven women – with scholarships. The students were awarded the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Taiwan Scholarship, Ministry of Education Taiwan Scholarship, Huayu Enrichment Scholarship and Taiwan ICDF Scholarship. In his remarks at the ceremony, Allen Lou, Taiwanese Representative to Somaliland, emphasized the importance of creating educational opportunities as part of Somaliland and Taiwan’s commitment to cooperation. [Read more](#)

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**Kings Somaliland Partnership**  
@KingsSomaliland



Congratulations to Prof John Rees, a long-term volunteer with @KingsSomaliland. He was recently recognised with the Hargeisa University 2023 award for his incredible contribution to the medical faculties in #Somaliland #HigherEducation @hargeisaunivers @KingsGHP



4:20 AM · Sep 15, 2023 · 457 Views

## *King's College London professor recognized with Hargeisa University award*

Dr. John Rees, Professor of Medical Education at King's College London's Sherman Education Centre, was recently awarded the 2023 Hargeisa University award for contributing to medical facilities in Somaliland as a long-time volunteer for King's Somaliland Partnership. King's Somaliland Partnership works with the Somaliland government, higher education institutions, health facilities, regulators and professional associations to support health workforce development and service delivery. [Read more](#)

## Somaliland is Open for Business



### *President Bihi inaugurates groundbreaking new oil reserve facility in Berbera*

In August, President Muse Bihi Abdi formally laid the groundwork for a new gasoline storage tank reservoir project in the city of Berbera. The project will expand access to fuel across the region and “boost Berbera’s standing as a national port,” according to Ali Abdi Abdilahi, governor of the Sahil area and Mayor Abdishakur Mohamud Hassan, both of whom were also present. In remarks, President Bihi applauded the project and emphasized the government’s commitment to expanding its development. [Read more](#)

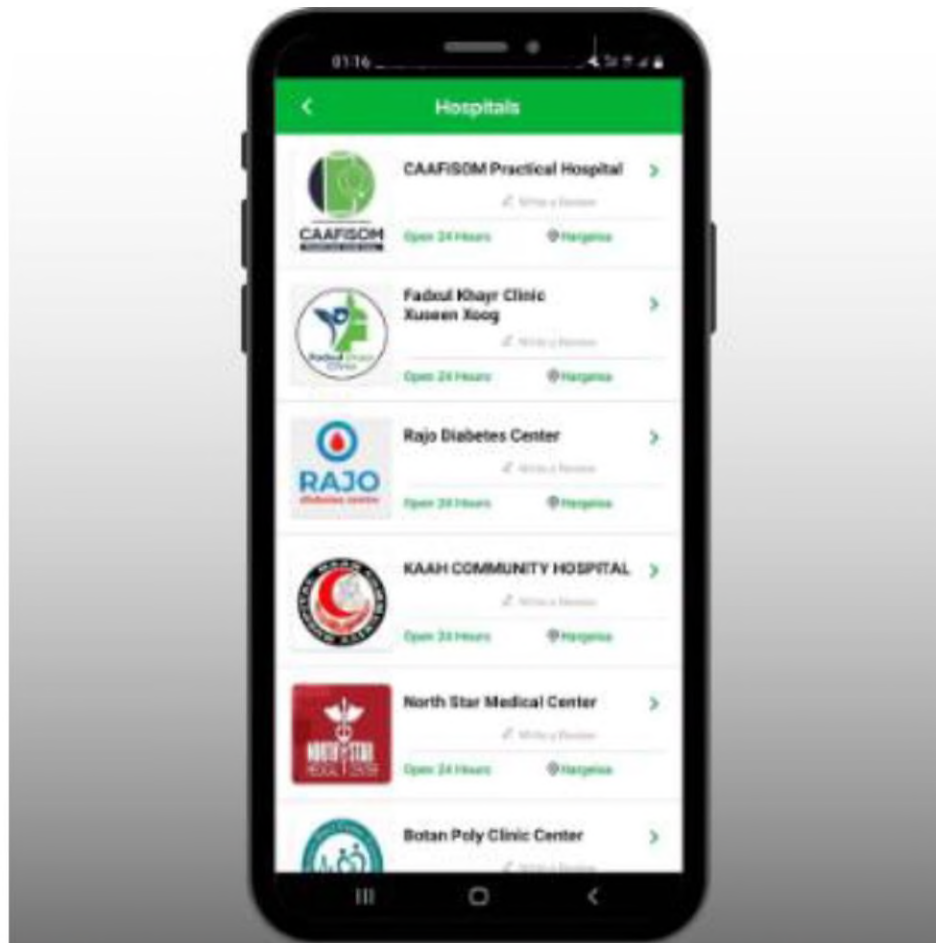
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## *ALS Worldwide expands to Berbera*

UK-headquartered heavy logistics and services provider, ALS Worldwide Group, has expanded its operations to Berbera, Somaliland, where it will have access to DP World's port facilities and the Berbera Corridor, which is a roadway connecting the port to Ethiopia. With its approvals in place, and the support of the Somaliland government, ALS Worldwide is now focused on mobilizing equipment to Berbera. In addition to the immediate set-up of operations, ALS Worldwide is also in the process of developing an app to help clients track their cargo. [Read more](#)

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## *Healthtech startup Caafisom secures funding, sets precedent for tech investment in Somaliland*

Caafisom, a healthtech startup based in Hargeisa, completed a \$110,000 seed investment round in July, led by the U.S.-based venture capital fund Tofino Capital and the Somaliland-based Takeoff Fund. The [company](#), founded in 2021, provides software for hospitals to digitize patients' health records. Through their in-house app, patients can book doctor appointments, access medical records and consult with health experts.

“Venture capitalists considering investments in the region can be confident that everything is in place,” said co-founder Mohamed Ismail Ahmed.

[Jesse Clain](#), the CEO of the Takeoff Fund, a Somaliland-based venture capital fund that has invested in Caafisom, told African Business that he “regrets that some investors focus too much on the international recognition aspect.” He added, “Somaliland is

functionally independent in every way; it's just not recognized internationally.” He also said, “Somalilanders have seen how much progress has been made in the last 30 years, largely without the help of the international community, and they know that they can create a better future for themselves and their children.” [Read more](#)

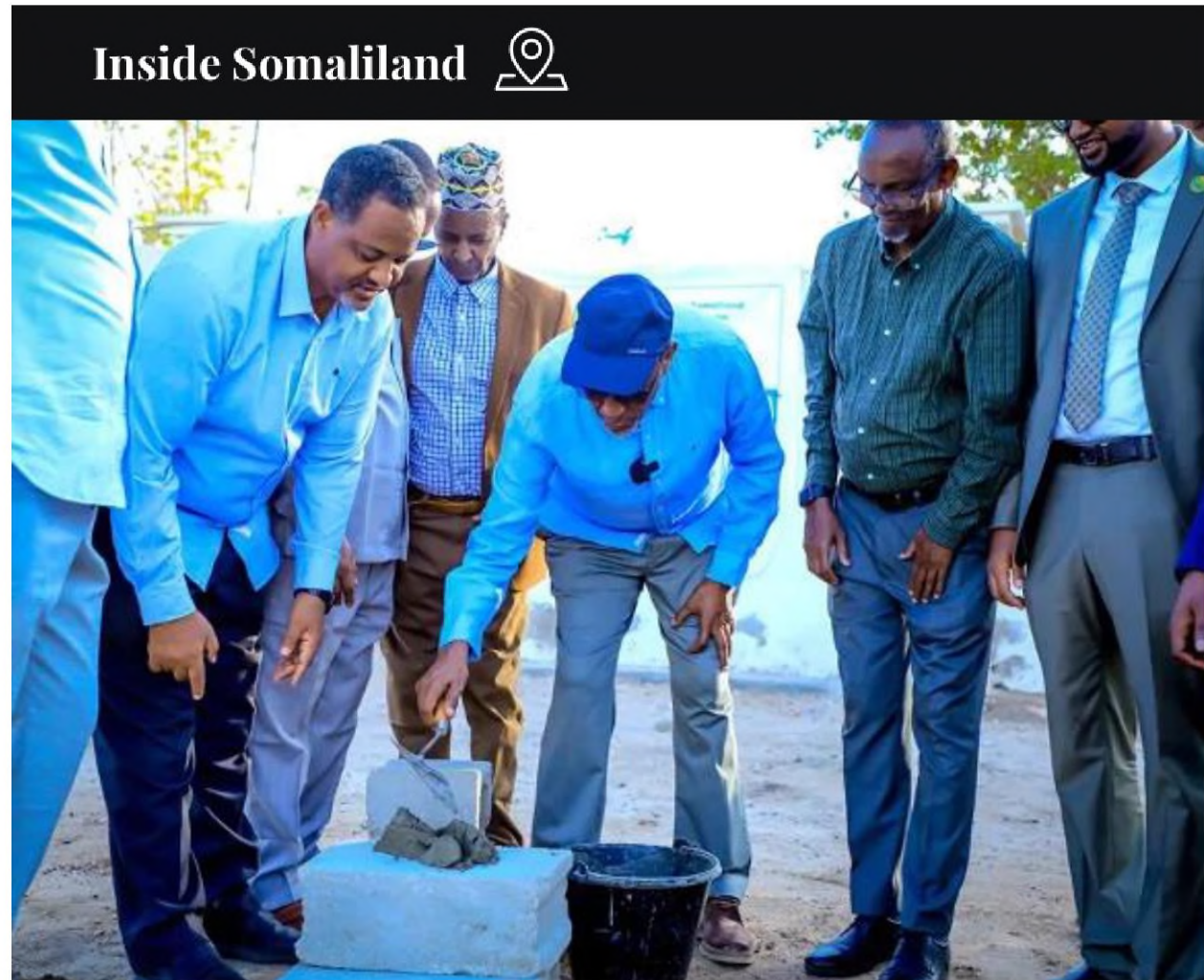


### *Nairobi-based program The Girl Generation hosts three-day Grants Inception Meeting in Hargeisa*

In September, the Executive Director of Somaliland Y-PEER, a non-governmental youth and community development network, attended a three-day Grants Inception Meeting in Hargeisa organized by The Girl Generation. This Nairobi-based consortium of non-profits and institutions works to empower women and girls and end all forms of violence, including female genital mutilation. Somaliland Y-PEER promotes reproductive health rights and HIV prevention, encourages youth entrepreneurship

and leadership and advocates for ending all forms of gender-based violence across the country.

The meeting kicked off the Support to the Africa-Led Movement to End Female Genital Mutilation project in Somaliland by convening advocacy leaders to develop innovative grant proposals. [Read more](#)



## *President Bihi lays foundation stone for new mental health facility in Berbera*

In August, President Bihi, accompanied by a delegation of government officials, including Minister of Health Development Hassan Mohamed Ali, laid the foundation stone for a new mental health facility in Berbera District. The state-of-the-art facility

will replace the former center, which was built nearly 100 years ago and no longer serves its original purpose. Once constructed, the new facility will provide much-needed care to those living with mental health conditions. [Read more](#)



## *Minnesota doctors bring life-saving equipment and training to Somaliland*

Minnesota-based doctors, Abdirahman Madar and Max Fraden, raised nearly \$100,000 in donations to provide portable ultrasound devices to Somaliland's doctors.

Donations of equipment and funds came from the Global Ultrasound Institute and the Butterfly Network, the government of Taiwan, the relief organization, Amoud Foundation, and other donors. In April 2022, Drs. Madar and Fraden delivered the first eight ultrasound devices and conducted a four-week basic training on how to use the devices for 20 general practitioners at Hargeisa Group Hospital. The doctors returned to Somaliland to open the first non-communicable disease clinic, which has helped to treat Somalilanders with conditions such as diabetes, high blood pressure, chronic kidney disease, cardiovascular disease and lung disease. [Read more](#)

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*Representative to the U.S. Bashir Goth visits the Geed Deeble Cheetah Rescue and Conservation Centre*

In July, a delegation that included Minister of Environment and Climate Change Shukri Haji Ismail, Director-General of the Ministry of Trade and Tourism Mohamed Abdilahi Duale and Representative to the United States Bashir Goth, visited the Geed Deeble Cheetah Rescue and Conservation Centre. The 800-hectare compound, which

officially opened in March of this year, houses more than 50 cheetahs recently rescued from illegal wildlife trade. It also serves as a research and training center for the Cheetah Conservation Fund's (CCF) ongoing work with the Somaliland government to curb cheetah trafficking in the region.

The delegation met with CCF Director Dr. Laurie Marker to discuss the CCF's ongoing and planned work in Somaliland. At the meeting, Minister Shukri conveyed her appreciation of the CCF's "unwavering dedication and remarkable achievements in promoting environmental conservation and safeguarding the endangered cheetah species." [Read more](#)

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**Sara Issa**

Full Stack Developer @Systesa



**Nim'an Bashir**

Database Engineer @Telesom

## *Hargeisa-based Fikrcamp teaches coding skills in Somali language*

[Fikrcamp](#), a coding bootcamp founded in Somaliland in 2021, equips Somali-speaking youth with the technical tools they need to pursue careers in technology and coding. The camp has trained 186 students across seven cohorts – with some graduates advancing to become software developers and database engineers. Ridwan Tukale, the co-founder and director of product and operations at Fikrcamp, said, “After years of successfully equipping Somali-speaking youth with crucial digital skills, we can assertively affirm our expertise in teaching. Our consistent record in aiding students to become employment-ready is self-evident. We are thrilled to extend our validated model to Ethiopia, aspiring to mirror our success. The objective is to expand our operations, boost student enrollments and continue to make a substantial impact on Africa’s tech education scene.” [Read more](#)



Office of the Somaliland Representative in the United States

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Somaliland Mission USA  
6019 Tower Court  
Alexandria, VA 22304

Office: 703-370-1423

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