

## GOAL for SOMALIA

Somali youth are taking lead roles and responsibilities as citizens and agents for social change, are active in nonviolence and innovative community-based initiatives, and are contributing to building peaceful and safe communities in Somalia and the Horn of Africa.

## AFSC's Approach to Building Peace

AFSC promotes nonviolent approaches to conflict. As such, we seek to promote the transformation of cultural and societal norms, values, and behaviors to reject violence. We strive to create a society with:

- Increased capacity for communities to transform conflict
- Engaged young people who promote a culture of peace
- Victims from all sides of a conflict who are able to improve their livelihoods using approaches that weave back together the social fabric and rebuild trust
- A wide variety of community stakeholders, including civil society, government, academics, business representatives and professionals, engaged in reducing violence

In these endeavors, AFSC works in partnership with other peace builders. Our work incorporates best practices such *Do No Harm* and *Reflecting on Peace Practice* (RPP).



Photo: AFSC / John Bongel



## American Friends Service Committee

### **Somalia Peace Program**

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## The American Friends Service Committee and Its Work in Somalia

The American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) is a Quaker organization that includes people of various faiths who are committed to social justice, peace, and humanitarian service. Its work is based on the Quaker belief in the worth of every person and faith in the power of love to overcome violence and injustice.





Photo: AFSC

## VALUES

*The following core values guide our work in Somalia:*

- Peace
- Equality
- Justice
- Truth
- Integrity

*Binding these key tenets together is the Quaker belief that there is that of God in each person, leading us to respect the worth and dignity of all people.*

# AFSC Strategic Priorities in Somalia

When young people's energies and creativities are directed toward positive and constructive activities in their communities, they become active contributors to a realization of a just and peaceful Somalia. AFSC emphasizes the role of young people, but does not preclude the engagement of elders and others. Rather, young people will be the guiding flag around which the changes for peace and change will unfold for the respective communities and relevant stakeholders.

From 2012 to 2014, AFSC is focused in four key areas of work in Somalia:



## OBJECTIVE ONE

**To strengthen leadership capacity of young people and a youth-directed action-oriented process involving community service and mobilization.**

## OBJECTIVE TWO

**To promote peaceful coexistence through the generation of employment opportunities for the most vulnerable youth resulting in direct economic benefits at personal, family, and community levels.**

## OBJECTIVE THREE

**To create platforms for youth voices and for advocacy which enable them to think critically and seek alternative coping mechanisms as they engage policy and decision makers at various levels.**

## OBJECTIVE FOUR

**To consolidate healing processes for conflict-affected communities in Somalia thus creating an environment.**