

UK's girls education programme receives new funding in Somalia

Operating in Banadir, Hirshabelle, Jubaland and South West states, the programme is focused on improving access to quality education for young Somali women and girls.

With \$17.6 million in UK Aid, AGES is currently supporting 42,000 marginalised adolescent girls to access primary school, accelerated basic education and non-formal courses tailored to their needs.

With the additional USAID funding, nearly 40,000 more marginalised adolescent girls and young women aged 15 to 24 who have never attended school will get the chance to improve their lives through the 11-month non-formal education course. The joint funding will also provide support to young women to engage in income-generating activities and civic education, in addition to providing linkages to other development opportunities.

The announcement comes ahead of the July 28-29 Global Education Summit. Along with Kenya, the UK will be co-hosting this event, aimed at raising \$5 billion to ensure that all children, particularly those in developing countries including Somalia, have equitable access to quality education.

British Ambassador to Somalia Kate Foster said:

The UK-funded Adolescent Girls Education in Somalia programme has made significant contributions to the lives of tens of thousands of young Somali women. With this new USAID funding, we are expanding our approach to reach even more marginalised households and communities. It will build their resilience by providing young Somali women basic financial, literacy, numeracy and life skills.

USAID Somalia Mission Director Patrick Diskin said:

USAID is very excited to contribute to this successful UK-led initiative in order to provide more young Somali women with a foundational education they lack, yet so rightly deserve. These skills will provide women with increased livelihood and civic opportunities, which are critical for advancing Somalia's economic and social development.

Access to primary education remains a major challenge in Somalia, particularly for girls. According to the 2020 Somali Health and Demographic Survey, only 27 percent of primary school-aged children are receiving primary education, and only 25 percent of them are girls.

Sixty-five percent of young women aged 20 to 24 have not attended school at all or have only some primary education, compared to 53 percent of young men of the same age.

Multiple barriers affect access to education for adolescent girls in Somalia. The combination of the COVID-19 outbreak and economic conditions has further worsened the exclusion of the most vulnerable adolescent girls and young women from education opportunities.

[Homes England seeks strategic leaders to join Board](#)

Housing and local government experts are being invited to apply to join Homes England's Board, Government has announced.

Following the appointment of new Chief Executive, Peter Denton, the agency is now looking to bolster its leadership team by adding up to three new Non-Executive Directors.

In particular, it is looking for a senior leader from the following areas; housebuilding and development, affordable housing, local government, or construction.

Led by Chair Peter Freeman, Homes England's Board is tasked with providing strategic leadership to the agency and promoting long term, sustainable success, ensuring the delivery of its strategic objectives.

The positions come at a pivotal time, as the agency enters a new phase.

Peter Freeman, Chair of Homes England, said: "As the country moves beyond its current challenges, Homes England's role has never been so important.

"We are working closely with the Government to be an even stronger institution that can galvanise a housing-led recovery, connecting other ambitious organisations and using our resources to work strategically across the country to create jobs, homes, and long-term partnerships in places. Homes England's Non-Executive Directors play a vital role in this, which is why we are looking for passionate, dynamic leaders to join us."

Peter Denton, currently Chief Executive of the Hyde Group, will take up his post at Homes England later this year. He has a strong track record of working in strategic leadership and Board roles at large scale global real estate, banking and not for profit organisations.

Applications are now open and will close 12 August 2021. More information about the roles and how to apply can be found on the Government Public

Appointments website.

[RWM's award for workplace mental health and wellbeing initiatives](#)

News story

RWM has been recognised as one of the UK's best organisations for supporting staff mental health after collecting a Workplace Wellbeing silver award from the charity Mind.



More than 100 businesses and organisations attended the online ceremony for the charity's [Workplace Wellbeing Index 2020/2021](#) which celebrate the achievement of employers who take action to prioritise mental health at work.

The [Index](#) is a benchmark of best policy and practice, celebrating the good work employers are doing to promote and support positive mental health, and providing key recommendations on the specific areas where there is room to improve.

And RWM Research Manager Liam Payne was one of four outstanding individuals honoured for their roles in promoting positive mental health.

Liam Payne: promoting positive mental health

Liam established and leads our Mental Health and Wellbeing Team and is passionate about raising awareness and ensuring support is in place at RWM for anyone experiencing issues with work-related mental health.

Chief Executive Karen Wheeler said:

I am so proud of Liam and the team for their commitment to

supporting staff, especially through the challenges of the coronavirus pandemic over the past year, which has taken its toll across the whole country.

At RWM, we have made a long-term commitment to support the mental health of our staff and continue to build and adapt, based on the needs.

Our commitment has been, and continues to be shown, through participation in the Index, implementing our action plan on to embed positive mental health and wellbeing in our ways of working, maintaining awareness and encouraging open discussion, as well as through our ongoing external partnership with [AddIWellbeing](#), an NHS foundation trust, to provide expert support.

Our measures include training for line managers, recruiting staff as mental health champions and allocating monthly 'Wellbeing Days' that focus on people rather than work.

Liam added:

It's a privilege to be shortlisted and win an award for doing something that you're passionate about, and fully supported by the organisation to do.

I've not done this alone and the Mental Health and Wellbeing Team at RWM want to ensure that all colleagues have someone they feel comfortable they can talk to; someone who they believe will listen to them; and someone who they feel can help them when required. Gaining a silver award and individual award is great, but we're not stopping here and continue to make changes so that RWM is a great place to work.

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[Chief Constable presents CNCs Equality, Diversity and Inclusion awards](#)

News story

Chief Constable Simon Chesterman was proud to reward eight CNC employees last week in recognition and appreciation of their work in furthering equality, diversity and inclusion (EDI) as part of the EDI annual awards.



Certificates of recognition were handed out to acknowledge work including:

- Supporting the mental health wellness of CNC employees, including the introduction of reasonable adjustments and Workplace Adjustment Passports
- Increasing understanding and support for those going through the menopause through the Menopause Action Group
- Initiatives such as introducing an effective and successful Workforce Diversity Programme that is generating tangible results

As well as six individual category winners, the Chief Constable also awarded a joint overall winner of the EDI awards 2021 in recognition of their continuous outstanding contributions to promote Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) across the CNC.

PC Alex Kioko, based at Sellafield, and Supt Keith McCarthy, Operational Unit Commander at Dounreay, were given the joint award by CC Chesterman in recognition of the work they have done as Custodian and Strategic Ally respectively of the Multi-Ethnic Support Network. The Network has been created to support officers and staff, as well as educate and inform our friends and colleagues.

Chief Constable Chesterman said: "We all have a responsibility to ensure the CNC is a place where everyone feels safe and valued, regardless of their backgrounds. We must never be complacent as creating this environment requires good people to step up. This is why I was delighted to present these awards and hear about what the recipients have been doing to deliver one of our core values, inclusivity."

PC Alex Kioko, joint winner of the EDI overall award, said: "As custodian of the Multi-Ethnic Support Network it has been a pleasure to offer support and advice to my colleagues and ensure that the CNC is an inclusive and supportive place to work. Having my efforts recognised by the Chief and my colleagues was an honour and I look forward to continuing my efforts with the MESN."

[COP President welcomes new ambitious NDC during his visit to Barbados](#)

The COP President, Alok Sharma, has welcomed Barbados' plans to be fossil fuel free by 2030 during his visit to the country.

Barbados has confirmed its Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) which includes reducing the emissions from 7.7 tonnes per year per person to 2.3 tonnes, as well as an unconditional commitment to a fossil-fuel free electricity sector and transport by 2030.

During his two day visit Mr Sharma met with the Prime Minister, Mia Amor Mottley, and senior members of her government to discuss how the two countries can work together ahead of the COP26 summit later this year in Glasgow. They agreed on the need for urgent action to keep 1.5 degrees within reach and to work together to call on G20 countries to step up urgent climate action.

They also agreed to exchange expertise and help identify practical solutions to climate impact challenges, especially those faced by Small Island Developing States (SIDS) like Barbados.

Barbados has been a long-time promoter of renewable energy and Mr Sharma met with leaders from across the industry who are involved in implementing a clean energy transformation across the country.

He also saw first hand the challenges faced by the vital tourism industry in his visit to the Sir Richard Haynes Boardwalk. To combat the effects of climate change and help protect the world-famous Barbadian beaches, the boardwalk provides coastal stabilisation, flood protection, water quality control and recreational services.

The UK understands the vulnerability and challenges faced by small island developing states (SIDS) and Mr Sharma reaffirmed the commitment to advocate for them in the run up to COP26.

Mr Sharma said:

“Barbados continues to show climate change leadership and I welcome their announcement of an enhanced NDC and their ambitious commitment to be free from fossil fuels by 2030.

“As COP President I am committed to working closely with those countries who are the most vulnerable to the devastation climate change can cause, and

these are often the countries who are causing the least damage.

“I am committed to ensure those voices are heard loudly and everyone understands the challenges they are facing. Together we are calling on all G20 countries to deliver urgent climate action for the sake of climate vulnerable communities across the world.

“The COP26 summit later this year is our best chance of safeguarding the planet for everyone, building a brighter future and keeping the 1.5C target alive.”