

Youth Livelihoods

Bosaso district, Somalia, April 2019

Introduction

Since 1991, the multi-layered crisis in Somalia has been primarily driven by armed conflict and recurrent droughts and floods. Damages and losses from the most recent drought are estimated to exceed \$3.25 billion, approximately half the value of the country's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in 2016.¹ As a result, previously common livelihoods were lost; for example, whilst an estimated **60% of the population were dependent on livestock for their livelihoods before the recent drought, just 24% of host community and 7% of internally displaced person (IDP) households reported owning livestock in 2018.**² More broadly, a report published last year by REACH found that approximately half of all households lost access to one or more income sources over the past year.³ Almost half of the population is unemployed or underemployed, **while youth unemployment is among the highest in the world.**^{4,5}

The primary drivers of the crisis led to large-scale internal displacement by people in search of livelihood, typically in urban areas.⁶ As of July 2018, more than 2.6 millions people are estimated to be internally displaced in Somalia.⁷ The Bari region of Somalia, which includes Bosaso district, was the 6th largest recipient of IDPs in 2019.⁸ Given the widespread loss of agricultural income sources – including livestock – and the rapid urbanisation of the country, **casual labour has become the main income source for around 30 to 50 percent of households in Somalia.**⁹ However, an increased reliance on day labour as a major income source may further entrench the tenuous socio-economic position of vulnerable households, particularly IDP households.

Within this context, there is a significant gap in information regarding the potential for migration and associated change in livelihood. Especially little is known about individuals under 30 years old, likely over 70% of the population. **In partnership with the Durable Solutions for IDPs and Returnees in Somalia (DSIRS) Consortium, REACH conducted a “Youth engagement and livelihoods” assessment in Bosaso district.** It aimed to fill information gaps on the employment status and occupation choices of young people between the ages of 18 and 35, and ultimately to provide consortium implementers in Bosaso with potential avenues for interventions.

¹World bank, [Somalia Drought Impact and Needs Assessment](#), July 2017

²Ibid

³REACH, [Somalia Joint Multi Cluster Needs Assessment \(JMCNA\)](#), August 2018

⁴World Bank, [Somali Poverty Profile 2016: Findings from Wave 1 of the Somali High Frequency Survey](#), June 2017

⁵UNICEF, [Education in Somalia](#), 2015

⁶REACH, [Somalia Joint Multi Cluster Needs Assessment \(JMCNA\)](#), August 2018

^{7,8}UNHCR, [Somalia Factsheet](#), March 2019

⁹Somalia Food Security Cluster and WFP, [Adapting to an urban world](#), 2016

^{10,11}See Statistical Annex, “Sampling methodology” for greater details.

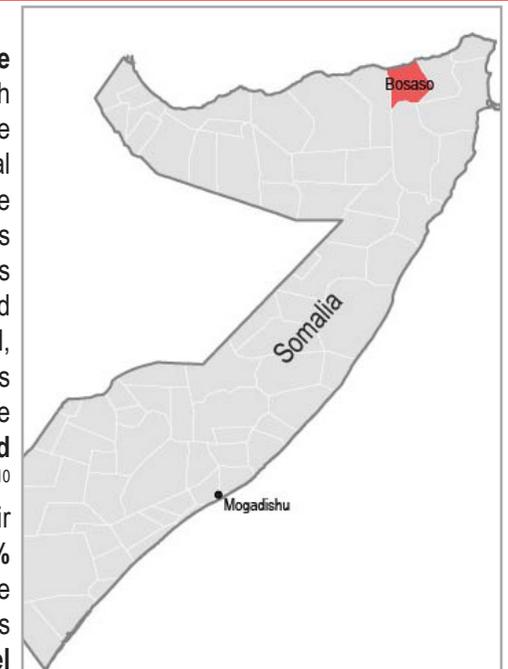
¹²UN Habitat, [Bossaso: First steps towards strategic urban planning](#), 2009

Methodology

This situation overview is based on **quantitative and qualitative data** collected from the 16th to the 24th of April 2019 in Bosaso district. The quantitative component consisted of individual surveys (with some questions asked at the household level) that measured trends in access and barriers to livelihood sources, as well as drivers of migration and migratory intentions, for displaced and host community youths (aged 18- 35). In total, 350 host community and 89 displaced youths were interviewed as part of this assessment. The sample **was stratified by host community and displaced households at the district level.**¹⁰

Findings for host community youths and their households are representative with a **95% confidence level and a 5% margin of error** while those for displaced youths and their households are representative with a **95% confidence level and a 10% margin of error at district level.**¹¹

The quantitative data were complemented by **four Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) with youths** (disaggregated by gender and displacement status) and **six Key Informant (KI) interviews** (including long-term IDP residents and business men and women). These latter provided a deeper and richer understanding of the factors influencing youths' access to economic activities and youths' intentions of movements. Findings from FGDs and KI interviews should be considered as indicative only.



Snapshot of Bosaso district¹²

- Bosaso is the **fourth largest city in Somalia** and is situated in the Gulf of Aden in the semi-autonomous region of Puntland. The **city's port is one of the biggest ports in Somalia and import-export is the backbone of the local economy.**
- The city's population has rapidly increased since the civil war because Bosaso **attracts large numbers of displaced persons fleeing insecurity and/or seeking to rebuild their livelihoods.** Displaced populations include IDPs fleeing the violence and instability of the south of the country, nomadic populations pushed to urban centers by drought and conflict, Somali refugees returning from Yemen and Ethiopia, as well as refugees from abroad.



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Key findings

Displacement

- Findings showed that displaced youths are pulled to Bosaso by **perceived safety, the presence of food distributions/food aid, and the availability of economic opportunities**. The perceived stability of Puntland is a particularly appealing factor, according to the KI interviews and FGDs.

Social cohesion

- The relationship between host community and displaced populations was reported to be generally good, especially because **both populations usually share the same culture/religion**. However, KIs and FGD participants reported that **some discrimination persists**, typically manifesting as internally displaced youths being confined to do petty jobs.

Livelihoods

- The percentage of displaced youths who reported day labour/casual work as one of their main livelihood sources was almost twice as high as for their host community counterparts. Conversely, a significantly higher proportion of host community youths than displaced youths reported being involved in business/ self-employment.
- **Qualitative findings showed that discrimination, distinct skill sets, and inequalities of social networks and/or access to start-up capital are all factors that explain differences in the livelihood sources** of displaced and host community youths.
- Host community female youths was the population group that most commonly reported being involved in entrepreneurial activities, followed closely by host community young men.
- **76% of youths** (both young men and women) -irrespective of their status (host community/displaced)- **reported that their main livelihood sources included at least one income generating activity**.
- Some participants in all FGDs **established a causal relationship between unemployment and youths' interests in joining armed/extremist groups and/or youths' involvement in petty crimes**.

Livelihood sources' coping strategies¹³

- Host community youth households were as likely as displaced ones to report not having used any coping strategy to deal with the lack of livelihood source in the year prior to data collection; however, **displaced youth households were significantly more likely to rely on less preferred/ expensive food and/or to reduce their food intakes** than host community youth households.

Pastoralism

- **Urbanization was found to diminish pastoralism**: a move from a rural to urban area was the first reason given by youths to explain a loss of income related to field crops or livestock rearing in the year prior to data collection. Findings from this assessment suggest **that most host community and displaced youths neither own nor manage livestock**.

Vocational training program

- 89% (313/350) of host community youths and 90% (80/89) of displaced youths said they did not receive any vocational training in the year prior to data collection. Most of the youths who were offered a vocational training reported being trained on computer skills, vocational skills (such as tailoring, carpentry or beautician etc.), or language skills.
- **28 of the 46 youths who reported receiving a vocational training said that the training allowed them to engage in an economic activity**, and 26 said that this training was directly related to the economic activity they were undertaking at the time of data collection.

Entrepreneurship

- **An overwhelming majority of both host community and displaced youths reported being interested in starting their own business**. Most youths – regardless of their status and gender – were interested in launching a petty trade business, followed by sewing businesses and beauty services. According to the youths, KIs and FGD participants, **the lack of own capital/ access to liquidity is the main barrier faced by youths in setting up a business**.

Skills and trainings needed to access economic activities

- **Computer, language (in particular English), entrepreneurial, and literacy skills were the most mentioned skills needed by youths** –irrespective of their status- to be able to engage in economic activities. **Life skills and entrepreneurship training** was considered the most useful training to access jobs by displaced youths and the second most useful training by host community youths.

Migration intentions

- **5% (19/350) of host community youths and 18% of displaced youths reported intending to change location in the coming year**. The **search for economic opportunities was reported to be the main pull factor** for migration. The vast majority of youths who reported intending to change location in the coming year -regardless of their status- said they intended to move to another location within Somalia.

¹³Question related to livelihoods' coping strategies was asked at the household level.

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Demographics

Total host community population in Bosaso district ¹⁴	202,457	
Total IDP population in Bosaso district ¹⁵	59,311	
	Host community population 	Displaced population ¹⁶ 
Number of youths interviewed	350	89
% of households headed by men	49%	50%
Average age of household head	49 y.o	43 y.o
Average number of youths (18-35 y.o.) per household	1.9	1.8

59% (206/350) of host community households reported hosting people who were not usually members of their households and with whom they were sharing resources such as food and water. 45% (159) of host community and 61% (54) of displaced youths were females. 29% (100) of host community and 31% (28) of displaced respondents reported being the head of household. On average, host community respondents were 24 years old and displaced respondents 25 years old.

Displacement

- ▶ **83%** (74) of the displaced youths reported being internally displaced.¹⁷
- ▶ **10%** (9) of the displaced youths reported being Ethiopians, who moved to Somalia.
- ▶ **7%** (6) of the displaced youths reported being Somalis, returning from Ethiopia.

Top 5 most commonly reported regions of origin of internally displaced youths:

Banaadir	47%
Bay	8%
Lower Shabelle	7%
Waqoyi Galbeed	7%
Mudug	4%

Top 5 most commonly reported settlements of origin of internally displaced youths:

Mogadishu	30%
Baidoa	7%
Qalafe	4%
Galkacyo	3%
Garowe	3%

Approximately **one-third of displaced youths (30/89)** reported having been displaced in at least another location before reaching the locations where they were settled at the time of data collection (referred as “current one”). On average, 14 months elapsed between the moment of their departure and the moment they reached their current area of residency. This average is skewed “upwards” by the internally displaced youths, who were more likely to report having lived in several different locations before reaching their current place of residence.

¹⁴ World Pop, [Population density estimates](#), adjusted for the most recent population estimates from the UN, 2018

¹⁵ REACH in partnership with the CCCM Cluster, [Detailed Site Assessments \(DSA\)](#), January 2018

¹⁶ For this analysis, “displaced population” includes (1) Somali youths who have moved within Somalia as well as (2) Ethiopian youths who moved to Somalia and (3) Somalis returning from Ethiopia.

Proportion of displaced youths who reported having been displaced in **at least another location before reaching their current one:**

Internally displaced youths	35% (26/74)
Somali youths returning from Ethiopia	67% (4/6)
Ethiopians who moved to Somalia	0% (0/9)

IDPs generally reported fleeing from general insecurity/areas under the influence of armed groups.

Top 3 reasons reported by displaced youths for choosing to move to their present locations¹⁸:

	First most reported	Second most reported	Third most reported
	Safety 69% (61/89)	Presence of food distributions/food aid 26% (23/89)	Availability of economic opportunities 25% (22/89)

Safety, presence of food distributions/food aid and availability of economic opportunities appear to be the most important pull factors for displaced youths. This was further confirmed by the KIs and FGD participants interviewed as part of this data collection.

Puntland was perceived by FGD participants as a relatively stable area, especially as compared to the southern parts of the country where many of the IDPs originate from. 20% (18/89) of displaced youths also reported that the presence of health services and the presence of water have encouraged them to move to their present locations.

Community relationships

According to KIs and FGD participants, relationships between host community and IDPs are generally good. Participants reported that the fact that **both population groups share the same culture/religion was seen as a factor facilitating these good relations**. However, in one FGD, participants reported that **host community members were usually favored in job opportunities and access to services**.

Some participants mentioned that IDPs could be discriminated against because they do not speak the same dialect as the host community people in Bosaso. One KI also highlighted that **tensions and misunderstandings between communities could derive from the difference in their accents and customs**. Some KIs said that IDPs could be victims of persecutions and be blamed for insecurity and crimes.

¹⁷ i.e. coming from a different location in Somalia.

¹⁸ Several answers could be selected.

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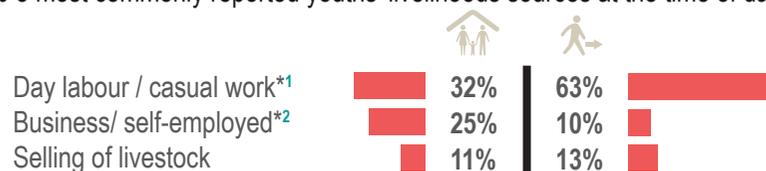
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Livelihoods¹⁹

All FGD participants agreed that **youths in the city mostly performed casual jobs** such as housekeeping, vehicle washing, selling tea, shoe shining etc. Working for small businesses such as beauty shops, groceries and vegetable stalls was also frequently reported as a common livelihood activity among youths. Interviewees also mentioned youths' involvement in sewing activities (partly because this activity does not require a large initial capital investment). Due to Bosaso's geographic position, fishing as well as port-related activities were also mentioned as some of the main economic activities performed by youths.

Top 3 most commonly reported youths' livelihoods sources at the time of data collection:^{20,21}



The percentage of displaced youths who reported day labour/casual work as one of their main income sources was almost twice as high as their host community counterparts.¹ A significantly higher proportion of host community than displaced youths reported being involved in business/self-employed activities, which might indicate different access to start-up capital.² They were also more likely to have a contracted job than displaced youths (8% vs 2%).³ The majority of KIs reported that **internally displaced youths were not carrying out the same type of jobs as host community youths**. According to them, this can be partly explained by the fact that **these two groups do not have the same skill set. Discrimination based on economic status** (host community youths being usually perceived to be wealthier than displaced youths) **was mentioned by KIs to confine internally displaced youths to petty jobs** (cleaning, sewage reparation, masonry, mechanics etc.), which can result in downward mobility.

Findings showed no significant difference between displaced and host community youths as regards their engagement in selling livestock, as well as farming activities.^{4,5} 8% of the displaced youths mentioned humanitarian assistance as one of their major sources of income compared to only 2% of the host community youths, **which highlights the fact that that displaced youths rely more heavily on humanitarian aid than their host community counterparts**.⁶ **Three quarter of youths** -irrespective of their status (host community/displaced) and sex- reported that their main livelihood sources at the time of data collection included **at least one income generating activity**.¹⁸

¹⁹Throughout this section, indicators for which the differences between host community and displaced youths were found to be significant are marked with an asterisk. Superscripts in turquoise have their corresponding references placed in the statistical annex.

²⁰Several answers could be selected.

²¹As part of this survey, "Livelihood sources" includes both economic activities and other sources of livelihood such as remittances, community support, and humanitarian assistance.

The fact that this proportion was similar for both young men and women might be partly explained by the prolonged civil war. The latter is said to have resulted in a change in the traditional division of roles between men and women; pushing women to become primary economic providers.²²



14% (49/350) of host community youths reported having **no** livelihood source at the time of data collection.



10% (9/89) of displaced youths reported having **no** livelihood source at the time of data collection.

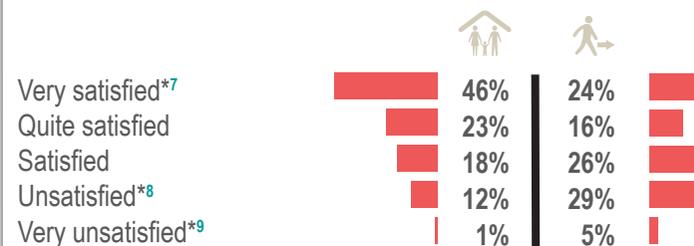
Findings indicate that host community youths were as likely as their displaced counterparts to have no livelihood source.⁷ Worryingly, **almost a quarter of youths were not being engaged in any economic activity at the time of data collection**. Furthermore, some participants in all FGDs established a causal **relationship between youth unemployment and interest in joining armed/extremist groups and/or involvement in petty crimes** (e.g. robberies or drug dealing).

Youths' main employers²³

47% of the youths (121/258) stated that they viewed themselves as self-employed, when asked to identify their main employer. Among the 121 youths who reported being their own employers, only 14% (17/121) said that one of their (if not the only) most common source(s) of income at the time of data collection was business/self-employment activities, while 66% (80/121) reported being engaged in daily job/casual work and 11% (13/121) reported that they had contracted jobs. **This highlights the fact that demarcation between self-employment and other forms of work is not clear-cut**. 24% (62/258) of the youths reported being mainly employed by the private sector and 12% (31/258) by the government. 27% (35/128) of male youths and 21% (27/130) of young women said they were mainly employed by the private sector. Only 3% (9/258) reported being employed by local business owners. This, in addition to the fact that findings also showed difficulties with accessing liquidities, might suggest that **those enterprises generally do not expand to a size that would permit them to hire staff**.

Youths' satisfaction towards their livelihood sources²⁴

Youths' level of satisfaction towards **their livelihood sources**:



²²Income generating activities include business/self-employment, contracted jobs, selling of livestock, selling of agricultural farm products, casual work/day labor.

²³Information on youths' main employers was collected during follow-up calls. In total, 258 youths answered this question. Findings relating to subsets of a population may have a lower confidence level and a wider margin of error.

²⁴Question was asked to all youths but the ones reporting having no livelihood source (i.e. 290 host community youths and 80 displaced youths answered the question related to livelihood sources' satisfaction).

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The majority of youths (both displaced and host community combined) with at least one livelihood source said they were either very satisfied, quite satisfied or satisfied with their it/ them. However, a significantly higher proportion of host community than displaced youths reported being very satisfied with livelihood sources.⁸ Conversely, the proportion of displaced youths who reported being either unsatisfied or very unsatisfied with their means of subsistence was significantly higher than host community youths.^{9,10}

 **46% (139/302)** of host community youths reported that their livelihood sources **did not** provide enough for them and their households.

 **76% (52/68)** of displaced youths reported that their livelihood sources **did not** provide enough for them and their households.

In the Somali context, the fact that youths reported being generally satisfied with their personal sources of income seems to have a religious connotation (related to the necessity of gratitude). **This does not mean that their individual livelihood source allowed them to provide sufficiently for them and their households.** KIs and FGD participants unanimously agreed on the fact that most of the youths were unsatisfied with the available jobs/economic opportunities in their communities due to low salaries. Some argued that **wages were not high enough to cover their basic needs**, a trend confirmed by the quantitative data.



Snapshot on youths' entrepreneurship

- **28% of the youths (97/350) -irrespective of their status- reported that self-employment was one of their (if not their only) main source(s) of livelihoods.**
- **71% (69/97) of self-employed youths reported that it was their sole source of livelihood. The others (28/97) reported combining self-employment with at least another source of livelihood (including remittances, rent of land or property, contracted job, day labor/ casual work or selling of livestock).**
- The population group most involved in entrepreneurship activities as such were host community female youths (27%; 43/159), followed by host community male youths (24%; 45/191), displaced males (14%, 5/35) and displaced females (7%, 4/54).²⁵ When asked who their employer was, women were also more likely than men to report being self-employed (30% vs 25%).
- **90% (62/69) of youths (displaced and host community combined) who reported self-employment as their only livelihood source said they were either very satisfied, quite satisfied or satisfied with it.**

²⁵The fact that the lines of demarcation between casual work and self-employment are not always clear-cut might have distorted those findings. However, the greater likelihood of women to be self-employed than men seems to be consistent with ILO Estimates and Projections for Somalia. According to ILO Estimates and Projections for Somalia, 87.9% of females (of all ages) are self-employed vs 70.2% of males.

Livelihood sources coping strategies²⁶

 **64% (223/350)** of host community youths reported that their households employed one coping strategy in the year prior to data collection to cope with the lack of livelihood source, **10% (34/350)** said they used two.

 **44% (39/89)** of displaced youths reported that their households employed one coping strategy in the year prior to data collection to cope with the lack of livelihood source, **29% (26/89)** said they used two.

The data showed that host community youths households were as likely as displaced ones to report that their households did not have to use any coping strategy to deal with a lack of livelihood source in the year prior to data collection.¹¹ However, **a significantly higher proportion of displaced youths than host community youths reported that their households used two or more coping strategies** to cope with the lack of livelihood source in the year prior to data collection (48% vs 15%).¹²

Top 5 most commonly reported coping strategies adopted by youth households to deal with a lack of livelihood source in the year prior to data collection:²⁷



The percentage of displaced youths who reported that their households relied on less preferred or less expensive food to cope with a lack of livelihood source in the year prior to data collection was more than twice as high as their host community youth counterparts.¹³ **Displaced youth households were also significantly more likely to reduce their food intakes by reducing the number of meals consumed per day and/or limiting the portion of their meals than host community youth households.**^{14,15} However, all but one KI reported that cutting down on food consumption was a coping strategy used by households -irrespective of their displacement status- in their communities to deal with a lack of livelihood source.

Loss of livelihood source

 **35% (121/350)** of host community youths said that they lost their livelihood source in the year prior to data collection.

 **54% (48/89)** of displaced youths said that they lost their livelihood source in the year prior to data collection.

²⁶Question related to livelihood sources' coping strategies was asked at the household level.

²⁷Several coping strategies could be selected.

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A significantly higher proportion of displaced youths than host community youths said they had lost their livelihood sources in the year prior to data collection (54% vs 35%).¹⁶ 47% (22/47) of the displaced youths who reported having lost a livelihood source in the year prior to data collection mentioned that it was either due to displacement or forced eviction. Some of the FGD participants also mentioned that young people were often the first to be laid off during difficult economic time; thus hindering their ability to build skills and experience.

Top 3 most commonly reported lost livelihood sources in year prior to data collection:²⁸

	First most reported	Second most reported	Third most reported
	Day labour/casual work 45% (54/121)	Business/Self-employed 17% (20/121)	Contracted job Livestock rearing for personal consumption 8% (10/121)
	Day labour/casual work 65% (31/48)	Business/Self-employed Livestock rearing for personal consumption 8% (4/48)	Selling of livestock 6% (3/48)

38% (32/85) of the youths (displaced and host community combined) who said that labour/casual work was the source of livelihood they lost in the past year explained that they ran out of money to keep their own business going. This further emphasized the fact that the lines of demarcation between casual work and self-employment were not always clear-cut for respondents and that **the proportion of youths reporting being “self-employed” is likely to under-estimate the proportion of youths engaged in entrepreneurship activities.**

Top 3 most commonly reported reasons by youths for having lost their livelihood source (all type of livelihood sources combined) in the year prior to data collection:^{29,30}

- | | | | |
|--|---|---|--|
|  | 1 - Ran out of money to keep his/her business going (42/121) |  | 1 - There was no work anymore, got laid off (12/48) |
| | 2 - There was no work anymore, got laid off (30/121) | | 2 - Moved to a different community and could not find the same work (11/48) |
| | 3 - Contract ended (15/121) | | 3 - Household was displaced/evicted (6/48) |

Pastoralism

28% (48/169) of the youths (displaced and host community combined) who reported having lost a source of income in the year prior to data collection said that this latter was related to field crops or livestock rearing³¹. Among them, **17** said they lost their livelihood sources because they moved from a rural to urban area (which prevented them from keeping working in farming/livestock related activities), **12** reported being laid off, **10** stated it was related to conflict or insecurity and **7** mentioned that their livestock or land was destroyed either during flooding or drought. This assessment found that most of the host community and displaced youths neither own, nor manage livestock. However, **a quarter (14/55) of the displaced youths and 23% (49/209) of the host community youths interviewed with regard to this topic reported owning livestock.** 15% (8/55) of the displaced youths and 10% (20/209) of the host community youths reported managing someone's else livestock.³²

Vocational training participation³³

89% (313/350) of host community youths and 90% (80/89) of displaced youths said they did not receive any vocational training in the past year. **9 displaced youths (out of 89) and 37 host community youths (out of 350) reported having received a vocational training in the year prior to data collection.**

Reported vocational training providers:



Top 3 most commonly reported places where respondents got offered their vocational training:

- 1 - School (23/46)
- 2 - Program centre (11/46)
- 3 - Offices (8/46)



Top 3 most commonly reported vocational training taken by youths:

- 1 - Computer skills (20/46)
- 2 - Vocational skills (12/46) (such as tailoring, carpentry, beautician etc.)
- 3 - Language skills (11/46)



²⁸ Findings relating to subsets of a population may have a lower confidence level and a wider margin of error.

²⁹ Several answers could be selected.

³⁰ Findings relating to subsets of a population may have a lower confidence level and a wider margin of error.

³¹ This includes the following income sources: Selling of livestock, Selling of agricultural/farm goods, Farming for personal/household consumption (not for sale), Livestock production for personal/household use not for sale).

³² Information on livestock ownership was collected during follow-up calls. In total, 264 youths answered this question. Findings relating to subsets of a population may have a lower confidence level and a wider margin of error.

³³ A snapshot on the Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) activities under this project can be found on the last page of this situation overview.

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22/37 of host community youths reported that the training they received had allowed them to engage in an economic activity.



6/9 of displaced youths reported that the training they received had allowed them to engage in an economic activity.

Out of the 46 youths who mentioned having received a vocational training in the year prior to data collection, 28 reported that the training was directly related to the economic activity they were engaged in at the time of data collection, 5 reported that the skills they got were somewhat transferable to the job they were carrying out at the time of data collection and 13 that there was no relation between the training they were offered and their current occupation.

Availability of livelihood sources

Top 3 most commonly reported livelihood sources available in youths' locations:



The proportion of displaced youths who reported day labour/casual work as one of the **most available livelihood sources** in their locations was significantly higher than the proportion of host community youths, while the opposite is true as regards to business/self-employment. ^{17,18} These findings are **in line with the livelihood sources each population group reported having access to at the time of data collection.**

Women involvement in economic activities³⁴

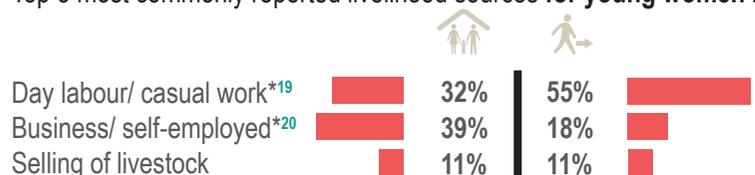


52% of youths (140/270) said that they did not perceive that there had been an increase in the number of young women among their coworkers in their place of work since they started working there;

27% (73/270) reported having seen an increase in the number of young women at their workplaces;

21% (56/270) did not know.

Top 3 most commonly reported livelihood sources for young women in youths' communities:³⁵



³⁴ Question was only asked to youths reporting "selling livestock" and/or "selling agricultural products" and/or being involved in "livestock production for personal consumption", and/or "agricultural production for personal consumption", and/or being engaged in "day labour/casual work" and/or "having a contracted job".

^{35,36} Several answers could be selected.

The type of livelihood sources that youth women were reported to be involved in was similar to the activities that youths, of each status, reported being engaged in. 10% (35/350) of host community youths reported that women in their communities were engaged in selling agricultural farm products, as compared to only 3% of displaced youths (3/89).²¹

Barriers to access to economic activities

Youths of both statuses stated the lack of education and of vocational skills were the biggest barriers they faced in accessing economic opportunities. This was in line with what the KIs and FGD participants reported. Likewise, FGD participants generally agreed on the fact that youths struggled to access education/training and that the quality of education they receive was typically low.

Top 3 most commonly reported barriers preventing youths from accessing the economic activities available in their communities:³⁶

	First most reported	Second most reported	Third most reported
Host Community Youths (House icon)	Educational background 40% (141/350) ²²	Vocational training 29% (103/350) ²³	Lack of social network 19% (67/350) ²⁴
Displaced Youths (Person with stick icon)	Educational background 46% (41/89)	Vocational training 43% (38/89)	Transportation/distance to work 11% (10/89) ²⁵

In one FGD, participants reported that schools' fees were high, meaning that many youths could not afford it. **A significantly higher proportion of displaced youths than host community youths (43% vs 30%) reported lack of vocational training as an obstacle in performing an economic or non-economic activity though.**²³ 19% (67/350) of host community youths reported that the lack of social network was the main factor preventing them from accessing the economic opportunities available in their communities.²⁴ When interviewed individually, none of the displaced youths perceived the lack of personal contact as a barrier to economic activity in their community. However, **the lack of social network was reported to place IDPs at a disadvantage compared to host community youths during the FGDs.** Some KIs explained that **employment recruitment is influenced by powerful clan members and that job vacancies were filled in with those who had the right contacts/ social network.** In general, the qualitative component of this survey showed that a lack of work experience, an inappropriate set of skills, and a weak personal network are all factors that youths face when looking for a job.

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Economic activities intentions and preferences

Generally, host community and displaced youths were found to have similar intentions as regard to their economic activities for the coming year.³⁷

 **70% (140/201)** of host community youths reported that they intended to continue their current economic activity for the year following data collection.  **71% (49/69)** of displaced youths reported that they intended to continue their current economic activity for the year following data collection.

Top 3 most commonly reported youths' preferred livelihood sources:³⁸

	First most reported	Second most reported	Third most reported
	Day labour / casual work 29% (56/151)	Business/ self-employed 25% (50/151)	Selling of livestock 16% (32/151)
	Business / self-employed 32% (22/69)	Day labour / casual work 29% (20/69)	Selling of livestock 16% (11/69)

The **most commonly reported livelihood sources preferred by youths - irrespective of their status - was day labour/casual work**. Only 9%(6/69) of displaced youths and 8% (16/201) of host community youths reported that they would like to have a contracted job. According to REACH data collection field officers, this reported preference for day labour/casual work can be explained by the fact that **youths gave very rational answers, i.e. taking into account their level of qualification and/or the type of revenue-generating activities available in their communities when answering**.

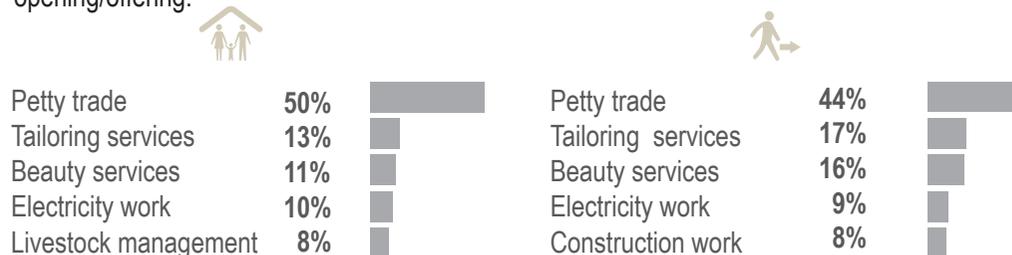
An overwhelming majority of host community and displaced youths responded positively when asked whether or not they would be interested in starting their own businesses. This interest was further emphasized by the KIs.

 **96% (335/350)** of host community youths said that they would be interested in opening their own businesses.

 **98% (87/89)** of displaced youths said that they would be interested in opening their own businesses.

^{37,38} Questions were only asked to youths reporting "selling livestock" and/or "selling agricultural products" and/or being involved in "livestock production for personal consumption", and/or "agricultural production for personal consumption", and/or being engaged in "day labour/casual work" and/or "having a contracted job"; i.e. 151 host community youths and 69 displaced youths.

Top 5 most commonly reported types of businesses/services youths would be interested in opening/offering:³⁹



Petty trade was the type of business youths - regardless of their status and gender - were the most interested in launching. Both men and women reported being interested in developing sewing businesses. Displaced young men tend to be slightly more interested in starting construction and electricity businesses than other population groups. Although two KIs mentioned that youths were not interested in engaging in pastoral activities anymore, **KIs regularly mentioned the trade of foodstuff (including fish) as one of the preferred activities for youths**.

Top 3 most commonly reported issues faced by youths for setting up their own businesses:^{40,41}

- | | | | |
|---|--|---|---|
|  | 1 - Lack of finance (290/335) |  | 1 - Lack of finance (70/87) |
| | 2 - Lack of land ownership (80/335) | | 2 - Lack of land ownership (36/87) |
| | 3 - Little to no knowledge of how to set up a business (53/335) | | 3 - Risk of droughts / floods(14/87) |

According to youths, **the lack of capital and access to liquidity is the main barrier they face when setting up a business**. This is in line with what KIs and FGD participants reported. The latter regretted the absence of national and/or commercial banks that would support youths in launching their activities. **Half of the KIs interviewed also mentioned the lack of certain skills as one of the main obstacles for youths to launch their own businesses**. However, only 9% (31/335) of the host community youths and 11% (10/87) of the displaced youths mentioned the lack of vocational training program as a factor that prevented them from launching their own businesses.

^{39,40} Question was only asked to youths reporting being interested in starting their own businesses, i.e. 335 host community youths and 87 displaced youths.

⁴¹ Several answers could be selected.

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Labour market

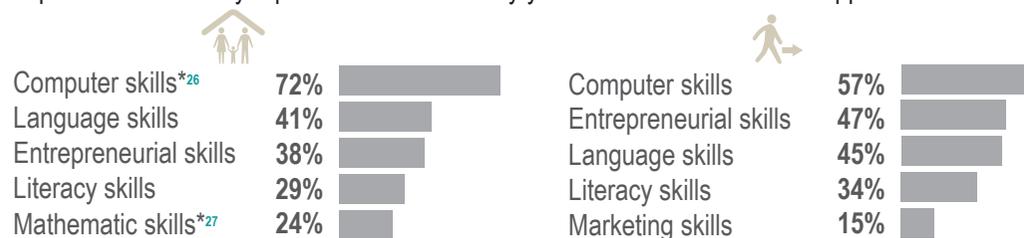
Factors facilitating the access of youths to economic activities

Top 5 most commonly reported factors determining youths' ability to access economic opportunities in their communities:⁴²



Host community and displaced youths agreed on the most important factors influencing youths' ability in accessing economic activities in their communities. Though none of the displaced youths perceived the lack of personal contact as a barrier to accessing income-generating activities in their communities, **30% reported that personal connections or word of mouth was determinant in youths' ability to access economic activities in their locations.** All KIs agreed that the use of personal contacts or/and clan support were the main contributing factor(s) in finding a job.

Top 5 most commonly reported skills needed by youths to access economic opportunities:⁴³



Computer skills were the most important skills needed to access economic opportunities, according to host community and displaced youths. Nonetheless, this skill appeared to be perceived all the more important by host community youths.²⁶ **Language, entrepreneurial and literacy skills were also mentioned among the skills the most needed by youths - regardless of their status - to be able to engage in economic activities.** Among the youths who reported that language skills were among the top 3 skills needed to access economic activities, 53 out of the 102 mentioned that English would be the most useful one. The proportion of host community youths who mentioned mathematic skills among the top 3 competencies necessary to find a job was significantly higher than displaced youths.²⁷ The percentage of host community youths who reported management skills as one of the 3 most needed skills to access economic opportunities was more than twice as high as the proportion of displaced youths (16% vs 7%).²⁸

⁴²Several answers could be selected.

⁴³Youths could select up to 3 choices.

⁴⁴Several answers could be selected.

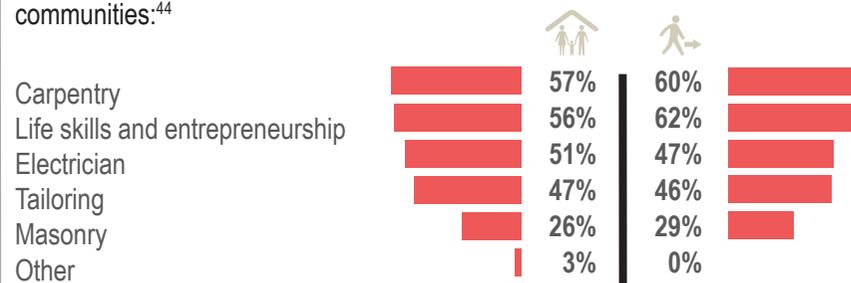
Economic opportunities accessibility for respondents

Top 3 most commonly reported **most accessible economic opportunities for youths** in their communities:



Youths generally agreed on the most accessible economic opportunities for them in their communities. However, a significantly higher percentage of host community youths than displaced youths reported that business/self-employment was among the most accessible economic opportunities for them (60% vs 36%), while the opposite was true as regards to day labour/ casual work.^{29,30} Interestingly, despite the perceived obstacles to setting up a business, the number of youths reporting that business/self-employment was accessible to youths in their communities was larger than the one reporting being involved in business/self-employment activities at the time of data collection.

Most useful vocational trainings for youths to be engaged in economic activities in their communities:⁴⁴



Host community and displaced youths generally agreed on the type of vocational training that is most useful for them and other young people in order to access economic opportunities in their communities. **KIs further emphasized the necessity for youths to possess vocational skills** (such as mechanic, carpentry and tailoring skills) to access economic opportunities, and also highlighted the need for fishing and farming skills.

12% (10/89) of the displaced youths mentioned knowledge about livestock rearing among the three most important competencies required to have an economic activity, compared to only 5% (16/350) of the host community youths interviewed.³²

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Youths' occupation

Top 5 most commonly reported activities youths engage in during their free time⁴⁵:



A significantly higher proportion of displaced youths than host community youths reported being busy doing households chores during their free time (83% vs 55%).³³ Conversely, host community youths are more likely to study during their free time than displaced youths (31% vs 12%).³⁴ According to KIs and FGD participants, the main activities of youths during their spare time included doing sports (playing football, swimming), watching television, and relaxing/ drinking tea in teashops.

Top 3 most commonly reported activities youths engage in during their free time⁴⁶:



The top 3 most reported activities by male and female youths were distinct, irrespective of their status. Household chores were the first activity both groups mentioned being engaged in during their free time. However, a larger proportion of young women than young men reported being engaged in household chores during their free time (77% vs 46%). Women were also more likely to report taking care of family members during their free time than men (46% vs 35%). **38% of the male youths reported participating in physical activity (playing/ watching sports), as compared to only 15% of female youths.**

Intentions of movements

Proportion of youths reporting intending to change location in the coming year



^{45,46} Several answers could be selected.

The majority of youths -regardless of their status- reported intending to remain in the same location for the coming year. **Youths who have already been displaced were more inclined than host community youths to intend to change location in the coming year.**³⁵ Slightly more young women than young men (both host community and displaced youths combined) reported intending to change location in the coming year (10% vs 6%). **The search of economic opportunities was reported to be the main pull factor for migration.** Among the youths intending to change location in the coming year, the majority -regardless of their status- said they intended to move to another location **within Somalia.**

By way of comparison with quantitative findings, **KIs generally reported that most youths in their communities would be willing to migrate to access better economic opportunities, access higher/quality education, and live in a more developed/safer country.** The main barriers to emigration mentioned by the KIs were passport and visa's issues and costs, transportation costs, and the limited choice of destinations available when holding a Somalia passport. **The difference between intentions and willingness to move to new locations tends to suggest that youths would be interested in moving for economic opportunities; however, these desires are not concrete plans.**

Conclusion⁴⁷

The results of this assessment highlighted differences in the source of livelihood for host community and displaced youths. **Perceived discrimination, different skill sets, personal connections, access to start-up capital are part of these distinctions.** This assessment found that youths from both communities are facing many of the same struggles in accessing income-generating activities. A very vast majority of both host community and displaced youths reported that they did not receive any vocational training in the year prior to data collection. **A quarter of youths -irrespective of their status and gender- were not engaged in any economic activity.** The lack of livelihood left many youth households no other choice but to rely on coping strategies to meet their needs.

Youth unemployment and idleness were said to be linked to interest in joining armed/ extremist groups and/or involvement in petty crimes. **Personal connections/ words of mouth were seen as a powerful factor in facilitating access to economic opportunities.** All in all, **these findings tend to indicate that there is a general need for the creation of youth job centers where host community and displaced youths can meet and connect to organize their livelihood strategy.**

⁴⁷ Recommendations included in the conclusion section have been validated by the DSRIS consortium.

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Though “only” 28% of the youths reported self-employment as one (if not the only) source(s) of income, a large proportion of youths viewed themselves as self-employed. This result highlights that the distinction between casual work and self-employment is not always clear-cut and that the proportion of youths reporting being “self-employed” likely under-estimates the proportion of youths engaged in entrepreneurial activities. Further, **entrepreneurship appeared to be extremely appealing to host community and displaced youths**; however, a lack of capital and access to liquidity were reported to be the main barriers to setting up a business. Half of the KIs also mentioned the lack of certain skills as one of the main obstacles preventing youths from launching their own businesses. Furthermore, very few youths reported being employed by local business owners, which could suggest that local businesses do not expand the number of employees past a relatively small size (if at all). In sum, possible entry points for DSIRS consortium partners and government stakeholders for supporting youths’ livelihoods in Bosaso district are:

Increase youths’ access to Technical, Vocational Education and Training (TVET) programs and especially those that introduce the concept of entrepreneurship. Computer and language skills were reported among the most important reported skills for youths to access economic opportunities; while carpentry, electrician and tailoring vocational training programs were perceived as very useful for youths to engage in livelihoods in their communities. Given youths’ appeal for entrepreneurship, **micro-credit schemes that are accessible to them could be an essential complementary activity, to allow youths to launch themselves into the business sector.** Furthermore, facilitating **revolving loan funds** could also encourage local groups to pool their financial resources to support an economic aspiration.

This assessment has been conducted on behalf of the DSIRS consortium which aims, among other, at improving relevant and sustainable livelihood opportunities for youths in Puntland and Galmudug regions. See below the details of the TVET activities undertaken in Bosaso:

TVET activities under the DSIRS consortium in Bosaso

Total number of beneficiaries per course, disaggregated by gender

Course	Male	Female	Total
Mechanic	32	0	32
Beauty Salon	0	60	60
Carpentry	18	0	18
Electrical	39	0	39
Nursing	6	34	40
Pharmacy	29	6	35
Tailoring	0	95	95
Tie and dye	0	56	56
Total	124	251	375

Statistical Annexes

Sampling methodology

To obtain findings generalizable at the district level, the number of interviews that have been conducted in each settlement was proportional to the population size of the settlement (irrespective of whether DSIRS programming is implemented in the district). Since age-disaggregated population data is not available at the district or settlement level, the total population size has been used as a proxy for the distribution of the youth subset of the population being targeted for this assessment, assuming a smaller overall population correlates with a smaller youth population and vice-versa. Based on REACH’s experience in Somalia, youth populations generally trend along with the overall population. However, some settlements may not follow this trend and there is a risk that the youth populations from these districts will be over or under-represented in district-level results. **In general, given that total population figures have been used as proxies for the youths’ figures, samples’ sizes are likely to allow for the findings to be statistically more accurate than the 95/5 and 95/10 outlined in the methodology section.**

HCP: Host Community Population, DP: Displaced Population

¹HCP (M=0.32;SD=0.47) where N=350 and DP (M=0.63;SD=0.49) where N=89, P Value=0.00, thus significant difference.

²HCP (M=0.32;SD=0.43) where N=350 and DP (M=0.1; SD=0.3) where N=89, P Value=0.00, thus significant difference.

³HCP (M=0.08;SD=0.28) where N=350 and DP (M=0.02; SD=0.15) where N=89, P Value=0.04 i.e. >0.05, thus significant difference.

⁴HCP (M=0.13;SD=0.34) where N=350 and DP (M=0.1;SD=0.31) where N=89, P Value=0.48, thus no significant difference.

⁵HCP (M=0.05;SD=0.23) where N=350 and DP (M=0.02;SD=0.15) where N=89, P Value=0.18, thus no significant difference.

⁶HCP (M=0.08;SD=0.27) where N=350 and DP (M=0.02; SD=0.15) where N=89, P Value=0.01 i.e. >0.05, thus significant difference.

⁷HCP (M=0.14;SD=0.35) where N=350 and DP (M=0.1;SD=0.30) where N=89, P Value=0.33, thus no significant difference.

⁸HCP (M=0.24;SD=0.5) where N=350 and DP (M=0.46;SD=0.49) where N=89, P Value=0.00, thus significant difference.

⁹HCP (M=0.12;SD=0.33) where N=350 and DP (M=0.29;SD=0.45) where N=89, P Value=0.00, thus significant difference.

¹⁰HCP (M=0.01;SD=0.22) where N=350 and DP (M=0.05;SD=0.11) where N=89, P Value=0.04 i.e. >0.05, thus significant difference.

¹¹HCP (M=0.15;SD=0.36) where N=350 and DP (M=0.08;SD=0.27) where N=89, P Value=0.08, thus no significant difference.

¹²HCP (M=0.15;SD=0.36) where N=350 and DP (M=0.48;SD=0.5) where N=89, P Value=0.00, thus significant difference.

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¹³HCP (M=0.22;SD=0.41) where N=350 and DP (M=0.48;SD=0.5) where N=89, P Value=0.00, thus significant difference.

¹⁴HCP(M=0.2;SD=0.4) where N=350 and DP (M=0.33; SD=0.47) where N=89, P Value=0.01 i.e. >0.05, thus significant difference.

¹⁵HCP (M=0.16;SD=0.37) where N=350 and DP (M=0.29;SD=0.46) where N=89, P Value=0.00, thus significant difference.

¹⁶HCP (M=0.35;SD=0.48) where N=350 and DP (M=0.54;SD=0.50) where N=89, P Value=0.00, thus significant difference.

¹⁷HCP (M=0.36;SD=0.48) where N=350 and DP (M=0.61; SD=0.49) where N=89, P Value=0.00, thus significant difference.

¹⁸HCP (M=0.41;SD=0.49) where N=350 and DP (M=0.17; SD=0.38) where N=89, P Value=0.00, thus significant difference.

¹⁹HCP (M=0.32;SD=0.47) where N=350 and DP (M=0.55; SD=0.5) where N=89, P Value=0.00, thus significant difference.

²⁰HCP (M=0.38;SD=0.49) where N=350 and DP (M=0.18; SD=0.39) where N=89, P Value=0.00, thus significant difference.

²¹HCP (M=0.1;SD=0.3) where N=350 and DP (M=0.03; SD=0.18) where N=89, P Value=0.04, i.e. <0.05, thus significant difference.

²²HCP (M=0.4;SD=0.46) where N=350 and DP (M=0.46; SD=0.5) where N=89, P Value=0.02 i.e. <0.05, thus significant difference.

²³HCP (M=0.29;SD=0.49) where N=350 and DP (M=0.43; SD=0.5) where N=89, P Value=0.32, thus no significant difference.

²⁴HCP (M=0.19;SD=0.39) where N=350 and DP (M=0; SD=0) where N=89, P Value=0.00, thus significant difference.

²⁵HCP (M=0.09;SD=0.29) where N=350 and DP (M=0.11; SD=0.32) where N=89, P Value=0.5, thus no significant difference.

²⁶HCP (M=0.72;SD=0.45) where N=350 and DP (M=0.57; SD=0.5) where N=89, P Value=0.00, thus significant difference.

²⁷HCP (M=0.24;SD=0.43) where N=350 and DP (M=0.08; SD=0.2) where N=89, P Value=0.00, thus significant difference.

²⁸HCP (M=0.16;SD=0.36) where N=350 and DP (M=0.07; SD=0.25) where N=89, P Value=0.02 i.e. <0.00, thus significant difference.

²⁹HCP (M=0.6;SD=0.49) where N=350 and DP (M=0.36; SD=0.48) where N=89, P Value=0.00, thus significant difference.

³⁰HCP (M=0.11;SD=0.31) where N=350 and DP (M=0.39; SD=0.49) where N=89, P Value=0.00, thus significant difference.

³¹HCP (M=0.07;SD=0.25) where N=350 and DP (M=0.13; SD=0.34) where N=89, P Value=0.03 i.e. <0.00, thus significant difference.

³²HCP (M=0.05;SD=0.21) where N=350 and DP (M=0.11; SD=0.32) where N=89, P Value=0.02 i.e. <0.00, thus significant difference.

³³HCP (M=0.55;SD=0.5) where N=350 and DP (M=0.83; SD=0.38) where N=89, P Value=0.00, thus significant difference.

³⁴HCP (M=0.31;SD=0.46) where N=350 and DP (M=0.12; SD=0.33) where N=89, P Value=0.00, thus significant difference.

³⁵HCP (M=0.18;SD=0.23) where N=350 and DP (M=0.05; SD=0.39) where N=89, P Value=0.00, thus significant difference.