Annual Report Highlights

Managerial and Technical

SomaliREN Annual Council Meeting 2024

February 12, 2024

Outline

- **State of the NREN**

- **Financial Report**

- **Finalized Five-Year Strategy Plan**

- **Somali Universities and Research Institutions ICT Assessment Report – First Edition**

- **Technical Updates**

- **Strategic Partnerships**

- **World Bank Project Updates**

State of the NREN (1)

Governance updates and issues

- Long Serving CEO Eng. Abdullahi Bihi left SomaliREN as CEO and Appointed a New CEO – Ahmed Siyad November 2022
- Due to unexpected changes, it still keeps its ambitions to thrive
- 3 female names have been nominated for the board members
  - They're still to be confirmed by the board
- The Board Members to review and sign the following organizational documents
    1. HR Policy
    2. Membership Policies and Procedures
    3. SomaliREN Financial Policies and Procedures
    4. SomaliREN Membership Criteria v3.0
    5. SomaliREN Membership Form
    6. Constitution (to be reviewed by the council)

State of the NREN (2)

Current Members - Institutions grow 28 members strong

State of the NREN (3)

New Membership Applications

The Office has received applications of interest from 3 institutions. One University and 2 Research Centers

The following two institutions have complete applications

1. Horseed International University, Mogadishu
2. Somali Public Agenda – Research Center

The following Research Center submitted an application interest but to submit a complete document

1. Dhaxalreeb Center for Leadership Development

Membership Issues and Sustainability Concerns (1)

- **SomaliREN is currently relying on two primary income sources**
    1. Connectivity (Internet subscriptions) services utilized some members and,
    2. Relatively small membership contributions

- Insufficient to cover the operational costs and the organization's ambitious budgetary requirements.

- This situation necessitates a careful examination of SomaliREN's sustainability

SomaliREN's Current Sustainability Concerns (2)

- **Limited Revenue Streams**
- **Operational Costs:** Limitations in maintaining and expanding its network infrastructure and services
- **Growth and Innovation:** Hinders SomaliREN aspires to evolve into a fully developed NREN capable
- **Risk to Sustainability**
- **Addressing Sustainability Concerns**
  - Diversifying Revenue Sources
  - Membership Engagement
  - Connectivity Services Uptake for the unconnected members
  - Cost-Efficiency
  - Advocacy and Awareness

Financial Report (1)

- **Audited Reports**: Conducted for **2023** and **2022**, ensuring transparency and accountability.

- **Board Approval:** Annual budget for 2024, indicating organizational financial planning.

- **Projected Income:**

New Five-Year Strategy Plan 2023-2027

Strategic Plan 2023-2027 - Five-year SomaliREN strategy plan was reviewed and endorsed by the board, laying the groundwork for transformative initiatives and sustainable growth.

Prof. Abdirahman Sheikhdon voluntarily contributed to drafting the strategy plan.

Technical Updates

- **Zone 1 (Mogadishu)** Last mile connectivity has been upgraded to fiber for the following institutions and campuses from October 2023.
  - SomaliREN this fiber upgrade with Hormuud Telecom
  - Significant performance has been reported after the upgraded link to fiber
  - There were LoS issues with the P2P last-mile connections to member institutions caused by growing high buildings
- **Zone 2 and Zone 3**
  - The network connectivity of these zones is not still effective and not operational due to budget limitations
- SomaliREN is expecting to benefit from World Bank's new project that has been officially launched Jan 2024 and has plans to operationalize these 2 zones this year
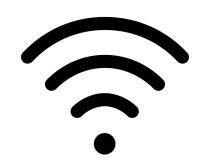- Procurement expected to start on March 2024

SomaliREN's Active e-Infrastructure Services

Direct Engineering Assistance (DAE)

The SomaliREN engineering team has provided Direct Engineering Assistance (DAE) to various member institutions:

1. **Somali National University**
   - Development of a filesharing/file hosting system based on Nextcloud for SNU

2. Heritage Institute
   - Deployed Event Management System based Indico successfully utilized for AFI2023, held December in Djibouti

3. Mogadishu University: Deployed and Configured for Campus Wireless Access Points

4. Jamhuriya University: Assisted in deploying local DNS

5. Nugaal University: Assisted restoration of the University's domains and emails

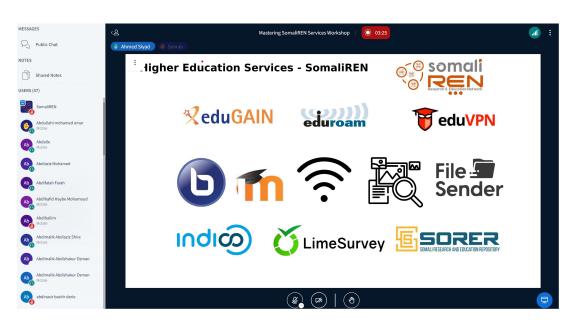# Community of Practice: Fostering Knowledge Creation and Dissemination

ICT Society

Librarians and Knowledge Managers

First Workshop and Conference Librarian Professionals. Feb 2023

Workshops

Higher Education e-Services Workshop – 3 Days

Librarians and Knowledge Managers Workshop 3-days

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The First Edition of ICT Assessment of Somali Universities and Research Institutions

- **First Edition ICT Assessment Report**: Evaluates member institutions' ICT infrastructure.

- Full presentation of the assessment to be shared during the annual program

Strategic Partnerships

Strategic Collaboration: SomaliREN and Hormuud Telecom have forged a new partnership agreement aimed at advancing research capacities and e-infrastructure resources within Somalia.

Infrastructure Enhancement: Hormuud Telecom's support has already facilitated improvements in connectivity infrastructure for SomaliREN, including the provision of last-mile fiber connectivity to select member institutions.

Regional and Global Reach: SomaliREN currently maintains strategic partnerships with prominent organizations such as:

- ASREN

- UbuntuNet Alliance

- World Bank through FGS