



RISE & LEAD FELLOWSHIP

From Potential to Action

An Initiative of EmpowerRise Hub

Cohort I | Banaadir, Somalia | 2026

1. About RISE & LEAD

RISE & LEAD is a youth-driven fellowship initiative developed by **EmpowerRise Hub** to support young people with the potential, ideas, and motivation to create positive change in their communities.

The fellowship is designed for young people who are at an early stage of their leadership or impact journey and want to move beyond learning and discussion toward meaningful action. RISE & LEAD creates a space where young people can strengthen their leadership, develop their ideas, build meaningful connections, learn from mentors and peers, and take practical steps toward creating impact.

The core idea is simple: young people should not have to wait until they are established leaders to begin creating change.

2. How It Started

RISE & LEAD was inspired and developed by three university students who were part of the EmpowerRise Hub learning community.

Through their experience as learners, they gained knowledge, skills, confidence, and exposure to opportunities that encouraged them to think beyond participation and consider how they could create something themselves.

They identified a need for a space where young people could continue growing after training, connect with others, develop their ideas, and turn their potential into action.

RISE & LEAD was born from that idea.

Its origin reflects one of the fellowship's central beliefs:

Young people are not only beneficiaries of change. They can also be creators of it.

3. Why RISE & LEAD?

Somalia has a young and ambitious population with enormous potential. Across universities, communities, workplaces, and youth spaces, young people are developing ideas and aspiring to contribute to their communities.

However, many young people do not have sufficient access to mentorship, networks, practical opportunities, leadership development, or supportive spaces where their ideas can grow.

RISE & LEAD seeks to help bridge this gap by creating a pathway from **potential to action**.

Rather than focusing only on conventional training, the fellowship brings together learning, mentorship, peer connection, idea development, leadership, and practical action.

4. Who Is the Fellowship For?



RISE & LEAD will welcome young people who demonstrate potential, initiative, curiosity, and a genuine desire to create positive change.

The fellowship may include:

- University students and recent graduates
- Young professionals
- Emerging community leaders
- Youth advocates and volunteers
- Young innovators and creators
- Emerging entrepreneurs
- Young people with community ideas or early-stage initiatives

Previous leadership experience is not the main requirement.

RISE & LEAD is interested in potential, motivation, ideas, and commitment to action.

5. The RISE & LEAD Experience

Selected fellows will participate in an interactive fellowship experience focused on:

Leadership & Personal Development

Building confidence, self-awareness, communication, decision-making, and leadership capacity.

Ideas & Innovation

Exploring problems, developing ideas, thinking creatively, and identifying practical solutions.

Mentorship & Peer Learning

Learning from experienced individuals while building relationships with fellow young changemakers.

Networks & Opportunities

Connecting fellows with peers, professionals, organizations, and opportunities that can support their continued growth.

From Ideas to Action

Supporting fellows to move from identifying an idea or challenge to developing practical steps toward action.

Community Impact

Encouraging fellows to use their knowledge, skills, and ideas to contribute meaningfully to their communities.

6. The RISE & LEAD Approach

The fellowship is built around four connected stages:

RISE

Recognize your potential and strengthen your foundation.

LEAD

Develop the confidence and skills to take initiative.

CREATE

Transform ideas into practical solutions and initiatives.



IMPACT

Take action and contribute to meaningful change.

RISE → LEAD → CREATE → IMPACT

7. Cohort I — Banaadir

The inaugural RISE & LEAD Fellowship will begin in **Banaadir**, bringing together a diverse group of young people from different backgrounds, fields of study, professions, and areas of interest.

The first cohort will serve as the foundation for a growing community of young changemakers connected through shared learning, collaboration, leadership, and action.

Lessons and experiences from the inaugural cohort will help inform the fellowship's future expansion to other regions of Somalia.

8. Expected Outcomes

Through RISE & LEAD, fellows are expected to:

1. Strengthen their leadership and communication skills.
2. Build confidence to take initiative.
3. Develop and refine ideas for positive change.
4. Build meaningful peer and professional networks.
5. Gain access to mentorship and learning opportunities.
6. Move from ideas and aspirations toward practical action.
7. Become part of a growing community of young changemakers.

9. Building a Youth-Led Community

RISE & LEAD is designed not only as a fellowship, but as the beginning of a long-term community.

Following the fellowship, alumni will have opportunities to remain connected, collaborate on initiatives, share opportunities, support future fellows, and contribute to youth-led community action.

Over time, the RISE & LEAD community aims to grow across Somalia and create stronger connections between young people working to build a better future.

10. Our Long-Term Vision

The long-term vision of RISE & LEAD is to build a recognized youth fellowship and alumni community that identifies and supports emerging changemakers across Somalia.

As the initiative grows, it aims to create opportunities for advanced mentorship, leadership development, collaboration, innovation, project development, and regional exchange.

RISE & LEAD begins in Banaadir, with a vision that reaches beyond one city.

11. About EmpowerRise Hub



EmpowerRise Hub is a women- and youth-led innovation and empowerment organization working to create opportunities for young people and women through skills development, leadership, innovation, advocacy, and community-driven initiatives.

RISE & LEAD builds on EmpowerRise Hub's commitment to creating spaces where young people can learn, connect, innovate, and take action.

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Coming Soon

Follow EmpowerRise Hub for the official fellowship announcement and application information.