

## **AFRICAN HEALTH, EDUCATION AND DEVELOPMENT SERVICES (AHEADS)**

### **What is AHEADS?**

Ahead is a not for profit social enterprise company and charitable organisation based in the UK. It was originally set up in 2009 under the name 'Educational Support Services Organisation (ESSO). However, it adopted later the new name 'African Health, Education and Development Services (AHEADS) and registered as a charity.

AHEADS was founded on the basis of a number of diaspora led initiatives and is aimed at working in partnership with local people in health, education, human rights and skills development. It is intended to help and support people and communities encountering hardship as a result of lack of basic services including education and health. Although AHEADS may offer support or provide services to people living in the UK, our main focus is to help people living in the Horn of Africa; in particular we want to support Somali people who are in need of basic services for health, education and life skills.

### **Our aims and objectives**

AHEAD'S mission is to empower people through education by providing individuals and communities with opportunities to learn and develop skills, as well as raising awareness about the issues that affect their lives. Our aim is to improve the social, economic and educational status of people in the Horn of Africa. We strive to make a contribution to the wider common strategy of tackling poverty and illiteracy to enable people to understand and protect their human rights, and to improve their lives and break the cycle of poverty that so often persists across the generations in Africa.

#### **Our practical objectives include:**

##### **1. Capacity building to develop both human resources and contributing facilities or aspects of infrastructure.**

How:

- Increasing the availability and the skills of local work force through provision of training and personal development.

- Mobilising diaspora members' knowledge, experience, and skills as well as their understanding of local issues.
- Improving access to and geographical distribution of health and educational facilities.
- Identifying and filling in gaps in existing development activities whether provided by local institutions or foreign aid organisations.

## **2. Generation and provision of resources**

How:

- Fund raising
- Delivery of services directly or through support of and collaboration with statutory, international and local NGOs.
- Provision of the necessary consultancy, information and research resources.
- Contribution of professionally skilled manpower on a temporary basis as required.

## **3. Community empowerment and publication of educational and information materials**

How:

- Provision of opportunities and facilities for community engagement in identifying priorities, in the planning and implementation of actions to meet these priorities.
- Raising of public awareness of issues affecting lives, particularly in the sphere of health, education and human rights.
- Understanding the impact of people's beliefs, views and cultural preferences relating to health, to the education of their children and families, and to general development issues. This would be supported by carrying out or collaborating with others in relevant studies and research.