TRACER STUDY REPORT
HIGH-QUALITY RESEARCH TRAINING PROGRAMME
GRADUATES OF THE FIRST YEAR (2015-2016)
APRIL, 2017
Summary of the Key Findings

- HQRS is designed for mid-career researchers from and living in the Somali regions who are eager to enhance their research skills and competencies and become the country’s next generation of researchers and research leaders.

- Among the targeted 24 graduates only 18 responded to the tracer study questions.

- Although the traced graduates represent all of the Somali regions, nearly 56% of the graduates are from Somaliland, while Puntland and South Central Somalia add up 44% of the overall graduates, 22% each. Also over 70% of respondents from across the three regions were male.

- Only one third of graduates had changed employers and 67% percent felt they were able to apply quite easily the knowledge and skills gained from the HQRS programme to their current roles. This notion is further strengthened by over 80% of students stating they had learnt a substantial amount of information from the course.

- The graduates believed that their research findings could help the SSF mission if implemented correctly since most of the topics were aligned with the core pillar objectives of SSF, including Conflict and Governance, Education, Justice and Employment.

- Although the graduates gave a positive feedback with regards to the programme’s content meeting their needs, they did also request for future HQRS courses to run over longer time periods and for it to include more subjects such as project management and proposal writing etc.

- Majority (78%) of graduates were still involved in research activities, either directly or indirectly.

- Since graduation, over 58% of programme participants continued to further study, both abroad and within the country and 44% did not commence any degrees.

- Majority of graduates recommended for the programme to be turned into a two year course accredited as a diploma or degree level.
INTRODUCTION

The Graduate Tracer Study was developed and administered by the Observatory of Conflict and Violence Prevention (OCVP) to track the first cohort of High-quality Research Training Support (HQRS) programme. The study is intended to look at the effect of the research training on the professional and career development of the graduates, and to find out what additional support they may need from the programme.

HQRS is designed for mid-career researchers from and living in the Somali regions who are eager to enhance their research skills and competencies and become the country’s next generation of researchers and research leaders. Findings from this study provide invaluable information on graduates’ current professional, academic activities and career paths. The findings of the study will be used to improve the quality of the programme and to establish the best ways of extending and expanding the programme in the near future. Below is the summary of the major findings from the tracer study survey.

PROFILE OF THE RESPONDENT GRADUATES

Table.1 Respondent Profile

As shown in this table, among the targeted 24 graduates only 18 responded to the tracer study questions. Although the traced graduates represent all of the Somali regions, nearly 56% of the graduates are from Somaliland, while Puntland and South Central Somalia add up 44% of the overall graduates, 22% each.
Figure.1 Target Graduates by Region

As shown in Figure 1, the largest portion of respondent graduates (75%, 75% and 70%) were male from the three regions Puntland, South central Somalia and Somaliland respectively, while remaining respondent graduates (25%, 25% and 30%) were female.

EMPLOYMENT

Figure.2 Employment Status

In this study, the graduates were asked if their current employer was the same as the employer that they worked with while studying on the programme. Figure 2 shows that 12 (67%) of
the respondent graduates had remained in their jobs, while 6 (33%) of the graduates had obtained a new job. Those who had different jobs were with a range of organizations in both the public and private sectors as well as non-governmental organizations across the country. For example, the new employers included the Center for Peace Analysis, Norwegian Refugee Council, Puntland Ministry of Finance, Mogadishu University and Gas Group of Companies.

Figure 3 showed that 67% of the respondent graduates said that the training they received at HQRS was related to their current employment; while only 33% said it was not relevant. The relevance of the course was further corroborated by the fact that 28% and 56% of respondents expressed they had learnt much from the course, gaining relevant skills from the programme to help them execute their job. Meanwhile only 11% and 6% of graduates said they learned some or little skills (see Figure 4). This could indicate that most of the graduates have acquired adequate knowledge and skills from the programme to help them with their work.

Figure 4 Skills & Knowledge learned
What have you done to circulate/further disseminate your HQRS research paper?

Most of the graduates published their papers through online Somali websites, local newspapers and social media platforms, whereas others shared with their friends, classmates, academies, institution and organizations. There were also those that contacted individuals working in the sectors they were researching. Other graduates were still planning on submitting to reputable journals. Some of the graduates wrote other research papers after graduation.

In your opinion, what practical use do you think your research findings could be put to, particularly in relation to the Somali Stability Fund’s mission?

The graduates believed that their research findings could help the SSF mission if implemented correctly since most of the topics were aligned with the core pillar objectives of SSF, including Conflict and Governance, Education, Justice and Employment.

The objective of SSF is to help stabilize the Somali government by empowering governmental institutions to deliver social services. In order to reach this stage, there must be a clear path that will contribute to solving the problems caused by the civil war and for people to have equal access to health, education, justice and employment. For there to exist a clear program for integrating IDPs into host communities, the government must treat people equally, as thousands of Somali refugees in the neighbor
countries await to return to their homeland. Some of those IDPs have been deported from western countries in addition to those that have fled various droughts. Since most of the research topics focused on those issues, the graduated respondents argued that there was a direct relationship between their findings and SSF’s mission.

What follow-up support do you think you need from the HQRS programme?

Most of the graduates requested that the High-Quality Research Training Support programme gave support and guidance on how they could improve their research skills and where they could exercise their research abilities, whether in research institution or governmental organizations. One of the graduates requested to participate in future OCVP research projects in order to develop his research knowledge. Some of the graduates pointed out that time was limited and they could not cover all the contents of research they had wanted to. They requested further research training from the University of Bristol and to be kept in the loop on any future research opportunities. The graduates requested training in several areas including:

- Concept notes and Proposals
- Project management/Team Management
- Information Technology / IT skills
- Infographics, GPS
- Mobile Technology

Figure.5 Passing the Skills

[Passing the Skills Pie Chart]
As shown in Figure 5. 78% of graduates said that they are either occupying a research leadership role or passing on the skills they have learned from the High-quality Research Training Support programme to others. However 22% of graduates said that they were not involved in any kind of research or activities.

FURTHER STUDY

Figure.6 pursuing further study

58% of the graduates have pursued further study since graduation, while 44% of the graduates did not pursue any courses. Half of those (58%) graduates who started a programme of further study decided to pursue higher education, in particular Master degrees, both abroad and at local universities, to progress their academic level. The other half pursued short diploma and certificates both online and in person.

What is your recommendations for any future extension and expansion for the programme?

Many graduates recommended that an extension of the programme duration for up to two years would be highly valued. They also suggested accreditation be upgraded to a higher level, up to diploma or degree, as this would increase the capabilities of the trainees to carry out independent research and would support Somalis in becoming
A minority of the respondents (2 graduates) pointed out the need to improve the practical component of the programme, covering areas of research design, writing, interpretation of interviews and final report writing. Some of the graduates suggested that to build a network among the trainees in order to share and exchange information and skills they had learned from the programme. This would allow researchers to contribute their knowledge to academic and government institutions in their regions.

Appendix: Tracer Study Questionnaire 2017

High-quality Research Training Support (HQRS) Programme
Tracer Study on Employment and Professional Progress by the 2015-2016 Graduates-First Cohort

The primary purpose of this study is to trace the professional and study progress of HQRS Programme graduates of year 2016 and find out what additional support they may need from the programme. The findings of the study will be used to improve the quality of the programme and to establish the best ways of extending and expanding the programme. Once we have completed our survey and analysed the results, we will email you a copy of the report. In addition, we will address directly any suggestions you have for further support from us and do what we can.

If you wish to discuss any matter of this tracer study, please feel free to contact with Mr. Abdullahi Odowa at abdullahi.odowa@ocvp.org or +252-63-4405564.

I. PERSONAL DATA

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>1. Gender</th>
<th>Male........................1</th>
<th>Female....................2</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2. How old are you?</td>
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<td>3. Marital status:</td>
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<tr>
<td>4. What region/state are you living?</td>
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<tr>
<td>5. What city are you living?</td>
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II. CURRENT EMPLOYMENT 2017

| 6. Is your current employer the same as the employer that you have had worked while studying the programme? | Yes...................1 | No.....................2 |
| 7. If NO what is the name of your current employer? |                             |                           |
| 8. Is your current employment | Yes....................1 | No......................2 |
related to the knowledge, skills and experience attained from the research training programme? |  
| 9. How much do the knowledge, skills and experience learned from the programme help you in your work? | Very much………………..1  
A lot…………………………..2  
Some………………………….3  
Little………………………….4  
Very little………………….5  

III. ABOUT THE RESEARCH TRAINING PROGRAMME

| 10. What have you done to circulate /further disseminate your HQRS research paper? | ………………………………  
| 11. In your opinion, what practical use do you think your research findings could be put to, particularly in relation to Somali Stability Fund’s mission? | ………………………………  
| 12. What follow-up support do you think you need from the HQRS programme? |  
| 13. Are you currently occupying any sort of research leadership role/or passing on the skills you have learned from the programme to others? | Yes……………….1  
No…………….2  
| 14. Have you recently pursued other study programme | Yes……………….1  
No…………….2  
| 15. If YES what type of study have you pursued since completing the programme? | ………………………………  
| 16. What is your recommendations for any future extension and expansion for the programme? |  