



Pharo TVET

*Building Pathways to Skills,
Jobs, and Livelihoods*



The Pharo Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) Centre, established in 2021 in Hargeisa, is one of Pharo Foundation's flagship initiatives to expand opportunity for Somaliland's youth. Designed to tackle unemployment and skills gaps in the trades sector, the Centre provides practical training to young adults aged 18–30. It equips them with the technical and soft skills required to thrive in today's workforce, bridging the gap between education and employment while supporting the country's broader economic growth.

The Problem

Youth unemployment remains one of Somaliland's most pressing challenges. Many young people leave school without practical skills, and those who complete higher education often face saturated job markets. The result is a mismatch between the skills young people have and those demanded by employers. Industries like construction, energy, and housing urgently require trained technicians, yet most workers lack certification or formal training. This limits productivity, undermines safety, and constrains opportunities for young people.

Our Response

Pharo TVET addresses this gap with industry-focused training that prepares students for immediate employment. Located in the heart of the city, the Centre offers training in trades that are critical to Somaliland's growth, including Plumbing and Pipe Fitting; Painting and Decorating; Electrical Installation; and Renewable Energy (Solar). The programme combines classroom teaching with hands-on workshops and specialised labs.

Training follows a competency-based curriculum aligned with the Somaliland Ministry of Education and Science, complemented by Pharo's industry-tailored modules. International OSHA safety standards are integrated throughout, ensuring graduates are trained to global benchmarks. The curriculum also embeds soft skills such as CV writing, interview preparation, and workplace readiness, giving students the confidence and professionalism to succeed.

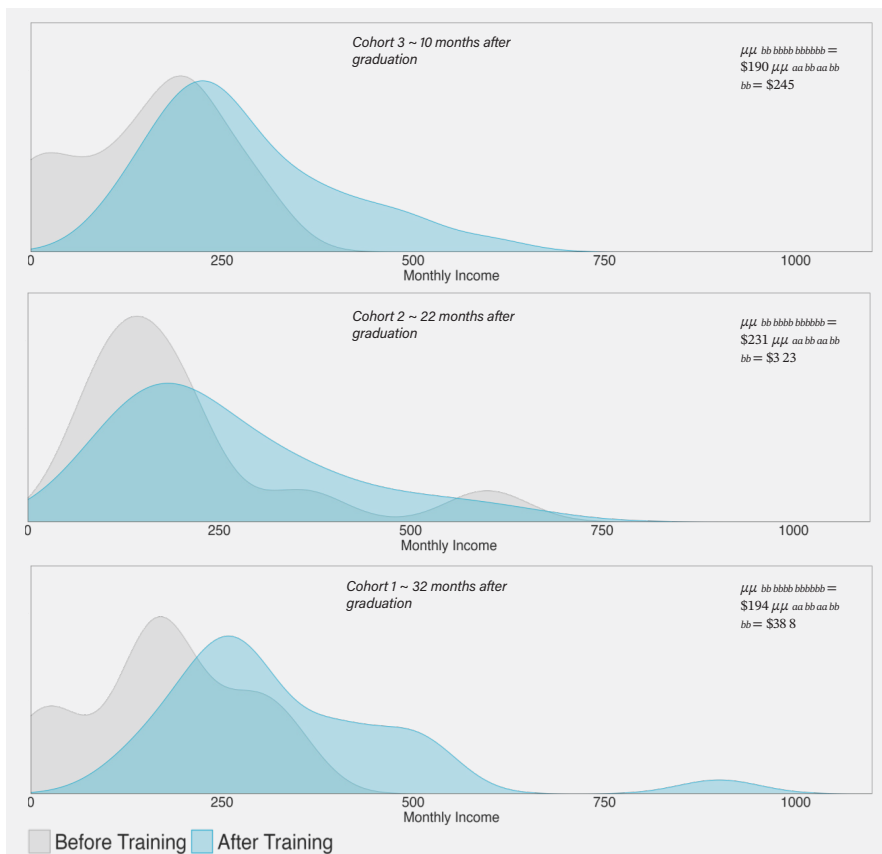


Facts & Figures

- ▶ **343 graduates** trained and certified since 2021.
- ▶ Earnings **doubled** for Cohort 1 (from \$194 → \$388/month).
- ▶ **\$1,600 higher annual income** for graduates vs. non-participant
- ▶ Average income rose from **\$177 to \$283/month** post-training.

Results

Since launching in September 2021, Pharo TVET has trained and certified 343 graduates across four cohorts, many of whom secured jobs quickly in trades such as plumbing, electrical work, and renewable energy. An evaluation of the first three cohorts shows clear gains: before training, 77% earned less than \$250 per month (avg. \$177), but after training 56% earned above that threshold, with average income rising to \$283. Cohort 1 graduates, in the market longest, doubled their monthly earnings (from \$194 to \$388). A phone survey comparing 173 graduates with 213 non-admitted applicants found that graduates earned on average \$1,600 more annually. These results highlight how TVET is improving livelihoods while strengthening sectors critical to Somaliland's development.



In Their Own Words

Graduate feedback from our qualitative survey shows that TVET training has been transformative, not just in skills, but in confidence.

Many shifted from unemployment or unrelated work into respected trades like plumbing and electrical installation, often earning steady wages for the first time. Students highlighted the pride of “finally being able to do the work with my own hands,” and credited soft skills training (CV writing, interview prep, workplace readiness) for helping them secure jobs faster.

New incomes also enabled graduates to support households, pay siblings' school fees, and reinvest in family businesses. For many, the shift into skilled trades was described as life-changing for themselves and their families.