



## School Closing Ceremony in Assosa, Ethiopia

**Ethiopia:** The Pharo Primary School, Assosa held a lively closing ceremony on the 2nd of July. Over 300 parents attended the event, as well as the Benishangul Gumuz Regional State (BGRS) bureau representatives in education, the Assosa city administration education office, and several Pharo staff members. The school management also invited private school owners to share the experience. The programme included an exhibition, market pace, stage performances, and an award ceremony.

The school management and teachers have been working hard to boost students' creative thinking ability and instil a passion for innovation. As part of the event, students displayed and presented to parents and guests their artwork. There was also a science fair which comprised exhibitions from different clubs including STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics), music, language, art, and social studies. The students' innovations ranged from a hydraulic excavator, coffee grinder, Axum obelisk construction, ventilator, incubator, paintings, and different handicrafts.

Another interesting activity was the marketplace. To improve students' English-speaking skills, the school management organised coupons for those who spoke most fluently. The students used the coupons to buy different items displayed at the market stands. Students also made various presentations including a taekwondo show, poems, cultural dances, songs, STEM feature, and musical instrument performance. High achiever students, and the best teachers of the year, received awards.

Various speakers at the event applauded the school and students for their impressive work. The school headteacher, Tesfaye Shewarega, also gave a comprehensive report of the overall academic year. One of the Parents Teachers Association (PTA) members, Fikadu Deressa, spoke about the immense support from The Pharo Foundation. He indicated the Foundation has honoured various PTA requests in regards to school improvements, and consequently, there is a great improvement in the student's academic performance, and overall discipline, and teachers are increasingly committed, leading to successful performance.

On a separate note, the newly opened Pharo Diagnostic Centre (PDC) team capitalised on the event by marketing their services through the provision of free glucose screening, body mass index and blood pressure measurement for parents in attendance. The PDC management also had an opportunity to briefly introduce to the guests the centre, and the type of services it offers.



Students performing at the school closing ceremony in Assosa, Ethiopia.

# The Pharo Primary School Assosa Closing Ceremony



# Somaliland Women's Literacy Programme Graduation



Women graduates from Faadumo Biixi School alongside the School principal and one of the teachers.

**Somaliland:** Over 70 women graduated from a Pharo Foundation-supported literacy programme focusing on mathematics and Somali in June. The programme aims to empower women by educating them and tackling stereotypes, to ultimately impact their communities.

The ministry of education and science, The Pharo Foundation, teachers, and the community attended the event. Various speakers emphasised that education does not have an age limit, and societal beliefs, as well as numerous obstacles, should not stop women from learning or continuing with their education in order to build a progressive community.

The graduating students, mostly mothers of early childhood education (ECE) school-going children shared their experiences, their educational journey, their learnings, and their before and after status. In August this year, The Pharo Foundation will begin a skills training programme for the women who graduated, in order to equip them with important skills to start or advance their businesses.

The Pharo Foundation is also expanding ECE to more schools and recently held a ground breaking ceremony for the Berbera ECE Centre. The Foundation is constructing the new ECE centre at the Omer Bin Khataab School in Berbera, Saahil region, and this is the first outside of Hargeisa. Additionally, the Foundation will rehabilitate two existing schools. Ministry and government representatives expressed their appreciation and support for this initiative and the long-term benefits of the ECE in the Sahil region.



A graduate receiving her certificate alongside ministry and government representatives and the Pharo team.



Berbera ECE Centre ground breaking ceremony.