

# Community-Based Reintegration Assistance in the Horn of Africa

*Projects implemented under the EU-IOM Joint Initiative for Migrant Protection and Reintegration and the Individual Measure Project between March 2017 and April 2023*



Project funded by the European Union  
Project implemented by IOM

In IOM's Integrated Approach to Reintegration,<sup>1</sup> community-based reintegration assistance programme aims at strengthening community networks and improving the conditions for sustainable reintegration. Initiatives at this level are implemented using a participatory approach involving returnees and their communities of return to address wider needs and concerns, increasing support for reintegration among local actors.

Under the [EU-IOM Joint Initiative for Migrant Protection and Reintegration](#)<sup>2</sup> in the Horn of Africa, IOM and its partners implemented 60 community-based reintegration assistance initiatives.<sup>3</sup> In several instances, the initiatives targeted areas with high incidence of irregular migration where several returning migrants concentrated, allowing to reduce tensions between returnees and local communities, or serve as extra capacity when a community has been stretched to accommodate returnees' needs.



## 60 Initiatives



## Community Response<sup>4</sup>

- 92%** feel involved in the identification, design and/or implementation of a project
- 92%** believe that the projects addressed the need of returnees in the community
- 94%** agree the projects had a positive impact on the whole community

<sup>1</sup> For more information on the Integrated Approach to Reintegration, please consult the first chapter of IOM's [Reintegration Handbook](#).




<sup>2</sup> <https://migrationjointinitiative.org/>.

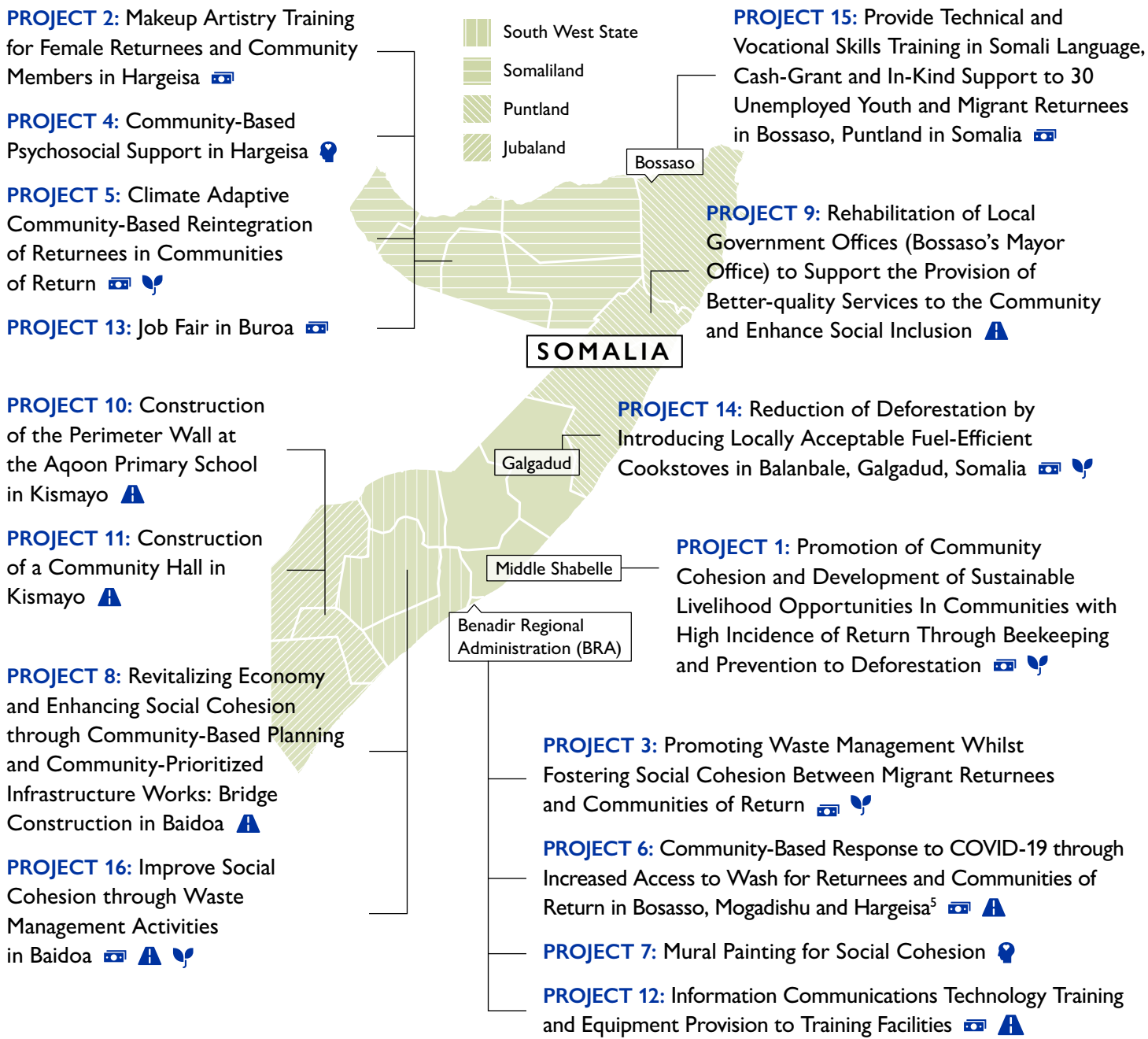
<sup>3</sup> The estimated number of direct beneficiaries of Community-Based Reintegration projects is 77,973 (29,223 male, 48,750 female). A number of initiatives entailed the improvement of public infrastructure and services in communities with high incidence of irregular migration: in such cases, the number of direct beneficiaries was estimated based on population size residing in the catchment area of the facilities or infrastructure improved. These estimates were possible in Somalia and Sudan only, but not in Ethiopia due to lack of data.

<sup>4</sup> Source: survey of residents of the areas targeted by Community-Based Reintegration projects, administered between February 2021 and July 2022 (n=809, 476 male, 333 female).

# In Somalia, 19 Community-Based Reintegration projects were implemented between February 2018 and August 2022

**Focuses:**

-  Job creation and economic empowerment
-  Public infrastructure improvement
-  Environment preservation/restoration
-  Mental Health and Psychosocial Support



5 This project is also held in Puntland and Somaliland.

**PROJECT 1**

# Promotion of Community Cohesion and Development of Sustainable Livelihood Opportunities in Communities with High Incidence of Return Through Beekeeping and Prevention to Deforestation



*Middle Shabelle*

In the Balcad District, Middle Shabelle, 50 individuals were trained by Hano on beekeeping and honey manufacturing, tree management and plant nursery establishment. The trainees planted 6,000 trees to reforest the community and installed 50 beehives. At the end of the project, the direct beneficiaries established a Cooperative Village Savings and Loans Association (VSLA) to save and access loans to expand their businesses.

**Project Timeline**

October 2020 – April 2021

**Focuses**

-  Job creation and economic empowerment
-  Environment preservation/restoration

**Implementing Partners**

- Hano Academy

**Direct Beneficiaries**

**22** male    **28** female



Returnees and non-migrant host community members in the tree nursery. © IOM



Returnee engaged in beekeeping. © IOM



**PROJECT 2**

# Makeup Artistry Training for Female Returnees and Community Members in Hargeisa

*Somaliland*

To develop and enhance marketable skills for women in Hargeisa, Muna Beauty trained female non-migrant community members and returnees on make-up techniques, sale and business management. At the end of the 6-week make-up artistry course, 30 women became qualified professional make-up artists and were given start-up kits to set-up their business.

**Project Timeline**

January – March 2022

**Focuses**

 Job creation and economic empowerment

**Implementing Partners**

– Muna Beauty

**Direct Beneficiaries**

**30** female



Participants receive make-up toolkit after completing the 6-week make-up artistry course. © IOM



Learners during make-up training. © IOM

**PROJECT 3**

# Promoting Waste Management Whilst Fostering Social Cohesion Between Migrant Returnees and Communities of Return



*Benadir Regional Administration (BRA)*

African Solutions trained 30 participants in waste management skills including charcoal briquettes, soap making and upcycling plastic waste (interlock making from plastic waste, and waste plastic crushing). Trainees were given start-up kits to set up microbusinesses that promote environmental sustainability. Five community-based and social media awareness events on environmental degradation, climate change, waste management were also held in districts of return in Mogadishu.

## Project Timeline

June 2020 – May 2021

## Focuses

-  Job creation and economic empowerment
-  Environment preservation/restoration

## Implementing Partners

- African Solutions

## Direct Beneficiaries

**22** male    **8** female



Waste management training. © IOM



Waste management training classroom, detail. © IOM



## PROJECT 4

## Community-Based Psychosocial Support in Hargeisa


*Somaliland*

The project strengthened community-based psychosocial support for youth and returning migrants in Hargeisa through the development and implementation of a peer-to-peer mentorship approach, community inclusion and participation in capacity building activities, meetings and art-based awareness raising events. Overall 524 individuals (126 male, 398 female) have been reached with information on psychosocial factors and consequences of migration on returnees and community members through recreational events and arts promotion. 125 returnees and non-migrant community members have been trained in MHPSS concepts and basic skills applied to the migration contexts and referral, community-based M&E methodology, supportive communication skills as well as stress management, and its applicability to the migratory context.

## Project Timeline

October 2020 – April 2021

## Focuses

 Mental Health and Psychosocial Support

## Implementing Partners

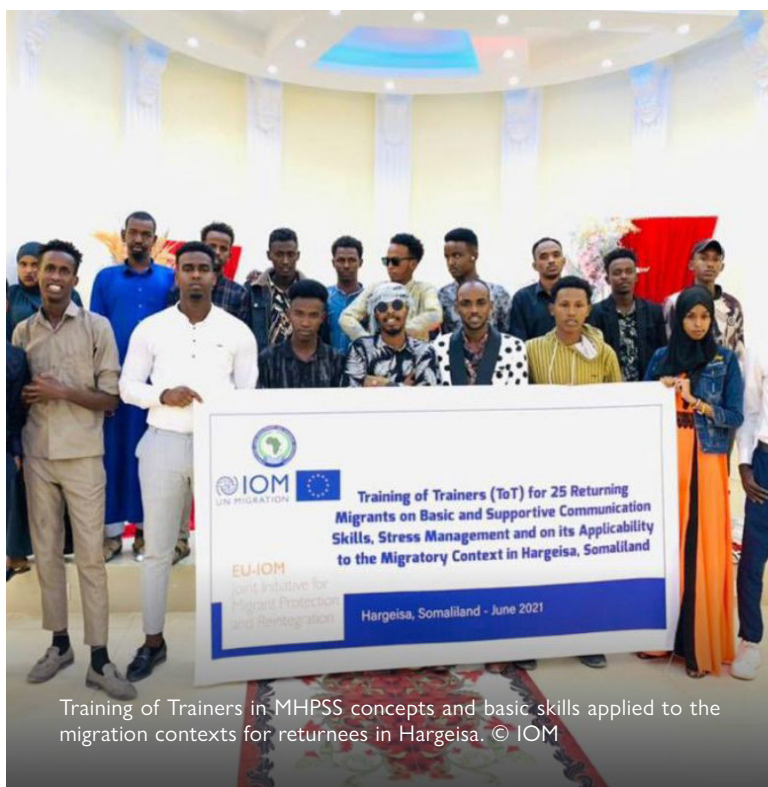
– SOYDAVO

## Direct Beneficiaries

**85** male    **40** female



Awareness raising of psychosocial factors and consequences of migration on returnees and community members. © IOM



Training of Trainers in MHPSS concepts and basic skills applied to the migration contexts for returnees in Hargeisa. © IOM

## PROJECT 5

# Climate Adaptive Community-Based Reintegration of Returnees in Communities of Return



## Somaliland

Candlelight capacitated 119 farmers and herders on cultivation, crop production and livestock management conducting a series of training on fertility improvement, moisture harvesting techniques, crop rotation, pest and disease management, climate adaptive soil conservation measures, including contour ploughing, early warning and contingency planning, planting techniques and market linkages improvement. The project promoted soil conservation and water harvesting with the introduction of contour plough and soil conservation measures through the provision of cash for work to 60 beneficiaries (35 male, 25 female) in 4 pre-identified sites in Burao affected by land degradation and soil erosion for the construction of soil and water conservation structures.

### Project Timeline

July 2020 – March 2021

### Focuses

-  Job creation and economic empowerment
-  Environment preservation/restoration

### Implementing Partners

- CANDLE LIGHT

### Direct Beneficiaries

**56** male    **63** female



Cash for Work to apply counter ploughing and soil conservation in degraded land. © IOM



Distribution of gardening tools to home gardening trainees. © IOM



## PROJECT 6

# Community-Based Response to COVID-19 through Increased Access to Wash for Returnees and Communities of Return in Bosasso, Mogadishu and Hargeisa



*Benadir Regional Administration (BRA), Puntland, and Somaliland*

31 handwashing facilities and 12 latrines were installed in Hargeisa; 14 and 10, respectively, in Bossaso. House-to-house hygiene promotion activities were also implemented by 36 community members (including 17 returnees) that were trained as hygiene promoters, who also distributed hygiene kits in target communities in Mogadishu, Hargeisa, Bossaso and Wajale. These initiatives aimed at preventing the spread of COVID-19 and increase community engagement in hygiene promotion in general.

## Project Timeline

May 2020 – September 2021

## Focuses

-  Job creation and economic empowerment
-  Public infrastructure improvement

## Implementing Partners

- Water Relief and Development Initiative (WARDI)
- Awale Drilling & Construction Company in Mogadishu
- Somaliland Ministry for Water Resources Development in Hargeisa
- Direct Implementation in Bossaso

## Direct Beneficiaries

**2,709** male    **16,638** female



Returnee hygiene promoter during door-to-door hygiene promotion and COVID-19 awareness activity in Mogadishu. © IOM



Community hygiene promoter during door-to-door hygiene promotion and COVID-19 awareness activity in Mogadishu. © IOM



## PROJECT 7

# Mural Painting for Social Cohesion


*Benadir Regional Administration (BRA)*

The project aimed at increasing the sense of belonging of returnees and non-migrant community members through art. At the Migrant Response Centre in Mogadishu 22 direct beneficiaries participated in a 3-week training on water colour and mural painting. Through the creative process, participants explored the themes of identity, belonging, acceptance, understanding, cohesion and the importance of social interaction within their communities.

## Project Timeline

October 2021

## Focuses

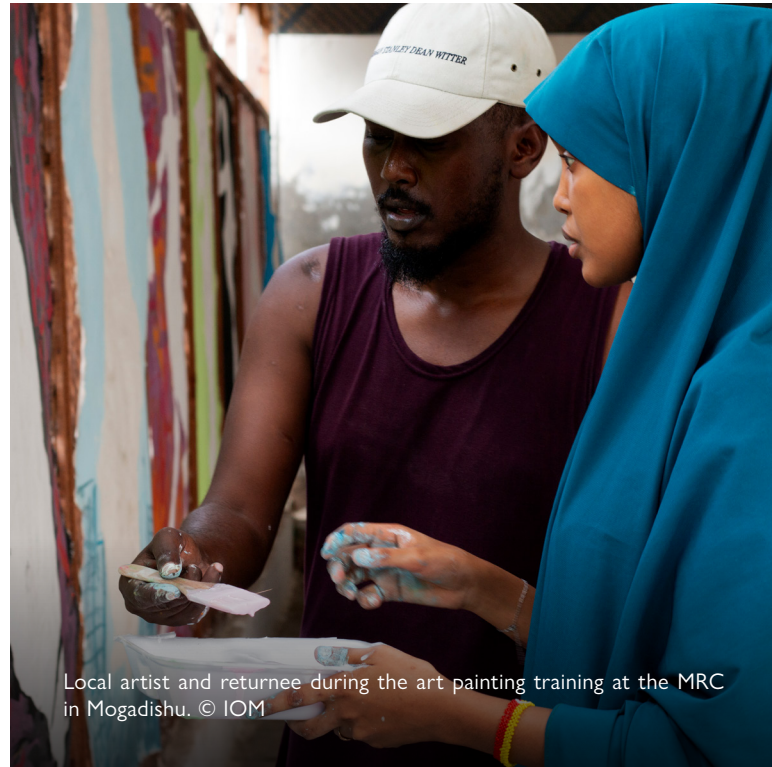
 Mental Health and Psychosocial Support

## Implementing Partners

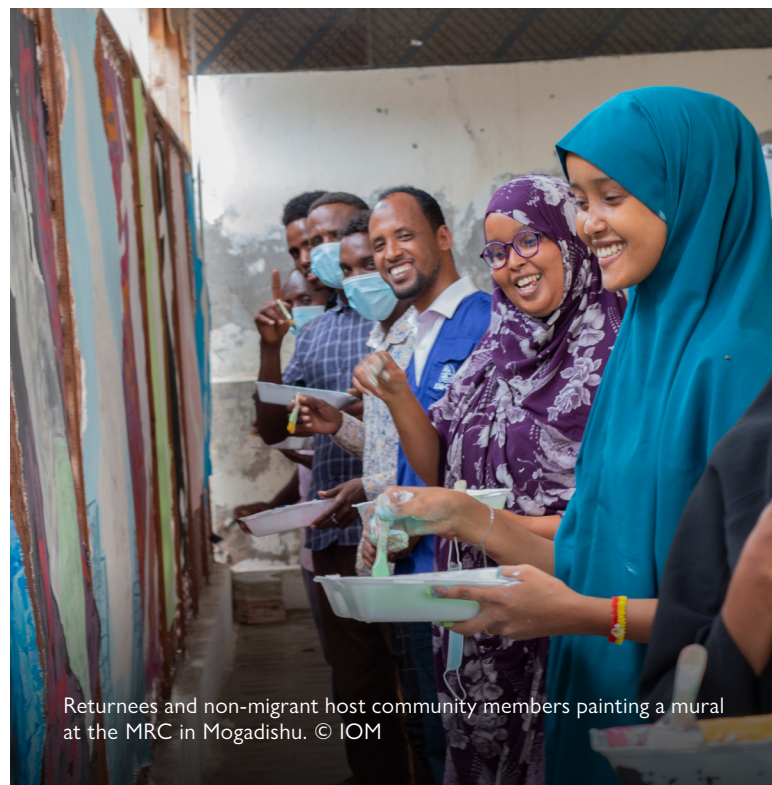
- Local artist

## Direct Beneficiaries

**14** male    **8** female



Local artist and returnee during the art painting training at the MRC in Mogadishu. © IOM



Returnees and non-migrant host community members painting a mural at the MRC in Mogadishu. © IOM

**PROJECT 8**

# Revitalizing Economy and Enhancing Social Cohesion through Community-Based Planning and Community-Prioritized Infrastructure Works: bridge construction in Baidoa

*South West State*

IOM built a bridge in the town of Baidoa, in southern Somalia. This activity benefitted the entire population of the area, including 30,000 IDPs, 37,500 returnees (including returning IDPs, returning refugees and returning migrants) and 82,500 members of the host communities, increasing access to basic services and to economic markets. The construction of the bridge was prioritized by the community following an intensive community consultation and planning process involving all socio-economic groups of the area and led by 26 community members (13 male, 13 female).

[Fact sheet on the Baidoa bridge initiative](#)

A story on this initiative can be found [here](#).

## Project Timeline

July 2019

## Focuses

 Public infrastructure improvement

## Implementing Partners

– Direct Implementation

## Direct Beneficiaries

**13** male   **13** female



A returnee walking on the bridge in Baidoa. © IOM



Head of the Salaamay neighbourhood in the city of Baidoa. © IOM



**PROJECT 9**

# Rehabilitation of Local Government offices (Bossaso's Mayor office) to Support the Provision of Better-Quality Services to the Community and Enhance Social Inclusion

*Puntland*

Three offices were renovated and one refurbished to improve the capacity of the local government to hold regular community meeting with different socio-economic groups and better address community's needs, such as access to basic services, waste management, security enhancement, conflict resolution, aid allocation and town planning. The spaces are used to held quarterly meetings with the Mayor attended by non-migrants, returnees and IDPs.

**Project Timeline**

November 2018 – February 2019 and equipment donated again in February 2020

**Focuses**

 Public infrastructure improvement

**Implementing Partners**

- Construction company DEMO completed the construction between 01.11.2018 and 31.12.2018

**Direct Beneficiaries<sup>5</sup>**

**15** male    **7** female



Community meeting and equipment handover in February 2020. © IOM



Community consultation session in September 2019. © IOM

<sup>5</sup> Direct beneficiaries are community members invited to the community consultations in 2018 and 2019 to select the community priorities and discuss about the use of the community hall at the Mayor's office to enhance social dialogue).

## PROJECT 10

# Construction of the Perimeter Wall at Aqoon Primary School

*Jubaland*

The Midnimo Programme, supported with funding from the UN Peacebuilding Fund, pooled contributions from several actors to build the Aqoon primary and secondary school. Prior to the intervention, the Aqoon School comprised of two structures made of wooden poles and sticks, on private land that was rented. The new school is in a permanent structure on land allocated by the Jubaland authorities. The facility is serving the wider community in Kismayo including returnees and non-migrant host community members. This IOM initiative contributed the construction of the perimeter wall.

## Project Timeline

February 2018 – March 2018

## Focuses

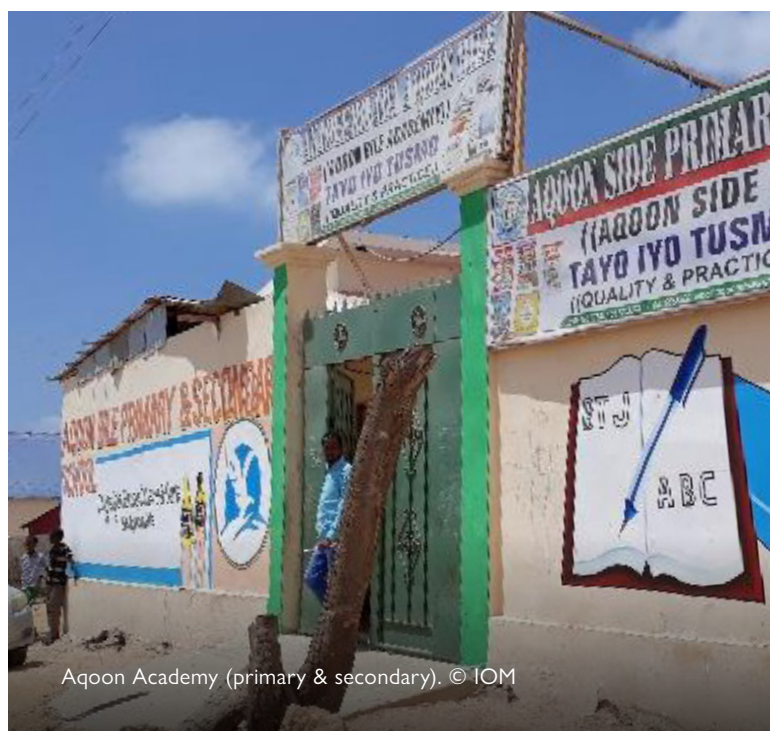
 Public infrastructure improvement

## Implementing Partners

– Direct Implementation

## Direct Beneficiaries

**234** male    **324** female



Aqoon Academy (primary & secondary). © IOM



## PROJECT 11

## Construction of a Community Hall in Kismayo

*Jubaland*

In Kismayo, the construction of a community hall was identified as a community priority by representatives from various socioeconomic groups during the community action planning period conducted in August 2017 under the Midnimo Programme, supported with funding from the UN Peacebuilding Fund. The community hall construction was completed and handed over in July 2018 to serve as a community centre for meetings and to host community led events such as awareness raising, orientation, cultural and national days to promote social cohesion. The facility is serving the wider community in Kismayo including returnees and non-migrant host community members.

### Project Timeline

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July 2018

### Focuses

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 Public infrastructure improvement

### Implementing Partners

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– Direct Implementation

### Direct Beneficiaries

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**2,200** male    **3,300** female

## PROJECT 12

## Information Communications Technology (ICT) Training and Equipment Provision to Training Facilities

*Benadir Regional Administration (BRA)*

Within the collaboration between IOM and UNDP, this initiative allowed returnees to access ICT courses, alongside non-migrant host community members. 50 computers were donated by IOM to Hano Academy and Somtec, to create a community lab for the trainings.



### Project Timeline

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October 2019

### Focuses

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-  Job creation and economic empowerment
-  Public infrastructure improvement

### Implementing Partners

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– Hano Academy and SOMTEC

### Direct Beneficiaries

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**80** male    **20** female

## PROJECT 13

# Job Fair in Buroa

*Somaliland*

On 30-31 July 2022, with the support of IOM, the Somaliland Ministry of Employment, Social affairs and Family (MESAF) organized a two-day job fair in Buroa. 31 returnees (all male) attended the event among over 300 participants and 30 employers, including representatives from the private sector, government agencies, and universities. The job fair provided a platform to exchange job market information and to network, giving also the opportunity to jobseekers to apply for apprenticeship, internship and job opportunities directly.

### Project Timeline

July 2022 (2-day event)

### Focuses

 Job creation and economic empowerment

### Implementing Partners

- Somaliland Ministry of Employment
- Social affairs and Family (MESAF)

### Direct Beneficiaries

**201** male    **99** female



Job Fair attendees submit their CV to employers. © IOM



Job Fair Hall and attendees. © IOM



**PROJECT 14**

# Reduction of Deforestation by Introducing Locally Acceptable Fuel-Efficient Cookstoves in Balanbale, Galgadud, Somalia

*Galgadud*

The project contributed to improved access to fuel-efficient stoves to reduce deforestation in the area of Balanbale, while also creating a livelihood opportunity for migrant returnees and other members of this communities of high return. These direct beneficiaries were trained on the repair and maintenance of cookstoves.

**Project Timeline**

February – June 2022

**Focuses**

 Job creation and economic empowerment

 Environment preservation/restoration

**Implementing Partners**

– BEEYO Consultancy Ltd.

**Direct Beneficiaries****12** male    **88** female

Distribution of cookstoves. © IOM



Training on the use and maintenance of the cookstoves. © IOM

**PROJECT 15**

## Provide Technical and Vocational Skills Training in Somali Language, Cash-Grant and In-Kind Support to 30 Unemployed Youth and Migrant Returnees in Bossaso, Puntland in Somalia

*Bossaso*

Dandoor trained 30 unemployed youth (13 male returnees, 1 female returnee, 3 male non-migrant host community, 13 female non-migrant host community members) in a trade of choice between henna and beauty salon electricity and tailoring. At the end of the training, the students received start-up kits to begin their businesses.

**Project Timeline**

May – August 2022

**Focuses**

 Job creation and economic empowerment

**Implementing Partners**

– Dandoor

**Direct Beneficiaries**

**16** male    **14** female



Trainees learning henna skills. © IOM



Trainees learning electricity skills. © IOM



## PROJECT 16

# Improve Social Cohesion Through Waste Management Activities in Baidoa




*South West State*

Waste management in Baidoa city has been improved through the construction of two disposal sites. One hundred community members (25 female returnees, 25 male returnees, 25 female non-migrant host community members, 25 male non-migrant host community members) were provided with protective and cleaning items and engaged, through a cash-for-work scheme, in a 4-week clean-up campaign targeting the areas nearby the disposal sites.

## Project Timeline

June 2022 (Ongoing)

## Focuses

-  Job creation and economic empowerment
-  Public infrastructure improvement
-  Environment preservation/restoration

## Implementing Partners

- Direct Implementation

## Direct Beneficiaries

**50** male    **50** female



Distribution of protective equipment for the clean-up campaign. © IOM



Handover of the clean-up equipment before the cash for work begins. © IOM