

DIASPORA FOR DEVELOPMENT

The International Organization for Migration (IOM) is committed to the principle that humane and orderly migration benefits migrants and society. One of IOM's core areas of intervention is migration and development, with the main objective to maximize the benefits of migration toward development. Diaspora engagement is one way of achieving this.

Finland has been a Member State of IOM since 1991, with IOM opening its first office in Helsinki in 1993. Finland's country strategy states that building more diverse and comprehensive bilateral relations between Finland and Somalia as well as advancing inclusive development in social sectors and supporting gender equality and the realization of women's and girls' rights are key strategic goals for 2021-2024.

Based on Somalia's priorities and the needs of the Somali population, Finland has been supporting several IOM projects in the country to strengthen the health system and improving migration management. This has been achieved under the framework of Migration for Development in Africa (MIDA) programme. Through MIDA, IOM facilitates the recruitment and temporary return of highly qualified Somali diaspora to contribute towards humanitarian and development efforts.

With 22,000 Finnish citizens speaking Somali as their native language, the Finnish-Somali diaspora is a significant resource for both Somalia and Finland and plays a key role in development cooperation, business partnerships and academic exchange. IOM closely cooperates with Finland to identify and attract a diverse pool of highly qualified Somali Finnish diaspora to support MIDA projects. Thanks to MIDA, a variety of Finnish and Somali companies and institutions are also engaging in increased collaboration.

MIDA MISSION

STRENGTHENING THE CAPACITIES OF SOMALI INSTITUTIONS THROUGH THE TRANSFER OF SKILLS, KNOWLEDGE AND RESOURCES, WITH THE SUPPORT OF SOMALI EXPERTS.



GLOBAL COMPACT ON MIGRATION - OBJ. 18 & 19
18. Invest in skills development and facilitate mutual recognition of skills, qualifications and competences.
19. Create conditions for migrants and diasporas to fully contribute to sustainable development in all countries.

SOMALIA NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN

2030 AGENDA FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

FINLAND COUNTRY STRATEGY
FINLAND COUNTRY PROGRAMME (2021 - 2024)

IOM recognized the strategic and pivotal role of migrants, particularly diaspora members, as development actors. The remittance flows into Somalia were estimated at 1.74 billion in 2020 and is an indication of the deep connection of Somali diaspora with their country of origin. With 22,000 Finnish citizens speaking Somali as their native language, IOM closely cooperates with Finland to identify and attract a diverse pool of highly qualified Somali Finnish diaspora to support MIDA projects, while also including other nationalities to participate.



Ministry for Foreign
Affairs of Finland

IOM
UN MIGRATION

MIDA FINNSOM

MIGRATION FOR DEVELOPMENT IN AFRICA

SOMALIA



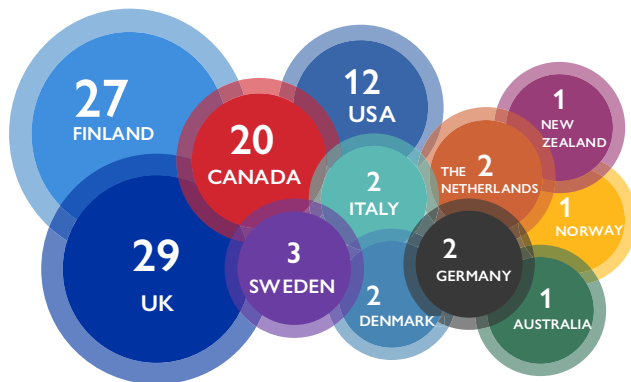
IOM
UN MIGRATION
midasom.iom.int

AMBASSADORS OF
PEACE AND DEVELOPMENT
SOMALI DIASPORA FOR DEVELOPMENT

MIDA FINNSOM PARTICIPANTS SINCE 2009



SOMALI DIASPORA EXPERTS ORIGINATE FROM



HOST INSTITUTIONS



MIDA FINNSOM HEALTH AND EDUCATION

The MIDA FINNSOM Health and Education project focuses on contributing to improving the capacity of health and education institutions across the Federal Government of Somalia and its Member States to provide quality sexual and reproductive health and rights services and education to the general population. The third phase is anticipated to cover a three-year period (2022-2025). Diaspora experts deployed to various health and education institutions support service delivery, capacity building and policy development, in close cooperation with the regional public health and education institutions, the Ministry of Health and Human Services and the Ministry of Education, Culture and Higher Education as the key line Ministries leading this project.

The project has facilitated the establishment of partnerships with Finland-based institutions such as the partnership between the University of Helsinki and the Somalia National University (SNU) with the aim to support teacher education and teaching practices at SNU. In the health sector, IOM engaged in a partnership with the Finland-Somalia Association to support access to sexual reproductive health and rights services to rural and remote areas.

The MIDA programme builds on lessons learned from previous phases and aims at ensuring the sustainability of achievements beyond the end of the projects. Following a rights-based approach, it gives particular attention to mainstreaming gender in the capacity building offered and policies developed, improving gender balance during recruitment as well as collecting gender-specific data.

IOM projects are in line with Somalia National Development Plan (2020-2024), IOM Somalia Strategic Plan (2022-2025), Finland Country Strategy for Somalia (2021-2024) and Finland Country Programme for Somalia (2021-2024). They also aim at contributing to the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration and the Sustainable Development Goals.

Interested qualified experts can access advertised positions through midasom.iom.int



BEING A NATURAL BRIDGE AMONG COUNTRIES, THE DIASPORA CONTRIBUTES TO THE CIRCULATION OF EXPERIENCES, SKILLS, RESOURCES, EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES AND INNOVATION.

IMMIGRATION AND BORDER MANAGEMENT

From May 2020 to June 2022, Finland supported the enhancement of the institutional capacity of the Immigration and Naturalization Directorate (IND) in Somalia. Diaspora experts were hired to guide and facilitate the development of work procedures and the enhancement of the Human Resources Management Information Systems. This work led to an improved administrative capacity of the IND's Human Resources Department. The project also contributed to improving IND's communication across its regional branches through the establishment of Very High Frequency (VHF) radios, towers and receivers. In addition, the standardization of border management procedures and functions across the IND was made possible by the translation of the Border Management Standard Operating Procedures Manual. Lastly, the provision of equipment, furniture and uniforms to the IND staff has been facilitating the IND's administrative functions.

4 Ports of Entry supported with VHF facilities

68 female and 164 male immigration officers received 3 pairs of uniforms

Equipment and furniture provided to Kismayo Airport