

## **EU Support Brings Hope for the Internally Displaced People in Mogadishu**

### **CONTEXT**

Over 1.1 million people of the Somali population live in protracted internal displacement. Another one million Somalis are in displacement in neighbouring countries and more than one million people have been displaced since November 2016 due to drought and conflict, bringing the total displaced population to approximately 30% of the current estimated population of Somalia.

Most internally displaced persons (IDPs) live in unplanned and informal settlements in urban areas. For example, Mogadishu is home to approximately 600,000 IDPs, which is close to one third of the overall internally displaced population in Somalia. About 55% of the IDPs are concentrated in two of Mogadishu's peripheral districts. Overall, this constitutes one of the highest IDP concentrations across the African continent. Protracted internal displacement is therefore an inherently urban phenomenon in Somalia and must be addressed against a backdrop of increasing urbanization and growing rural-urban migration trends, with one of the highest urban growth rates in the world.

### **OBJECTIVE**

RE-INTEG has the general objective of facilitating and supporting durable solutions for IDPs and Returnees in Mogadishu, including improving their living conditions through the establishment of governance systems, increased Housing, Land and Property Rights and social, economic and political inclusion.

### **FACTS AND FIGURES**

- EU contribution to the project: Euro 12 million
- Duration: 35 months (April 2017 to March 2020)
- Regions covered by the project: Mogadishu (Benadir region)
- Beneficiaries of the project: Somali returnees and IDPs located in Mogadishu

## **PARTNERS**

UN-HABITAT (Lead), UNHCR, UNDP, CESVI, SWDC and SIDO.

**Below are success stories as told by two beneficiaries of the UNDP Cash for Work component of RE-INTEG**



**Khadija Mahaday** (age 51), resident of the Deeq Rabbi IDP Camp (Kaxda district, Mogadishu)

“I am a disabled woman and widow who is currently taking care of 8 children (6 of my own and 2 grandchildren from my first daughter). My husband was killed about 6 years ago, when Al-Shabab came to my village, and we decided to flee to Mogadishu shortly thereafter; this is how my children and I came to settle in the Deeq Rabi Camp.

Living with 6 children in the camp has proved very difficult, and there are times where we only eat one meal per day or no meal at all. Hygiene conditions have also been very bad here: before this project, flies were everywhere and so was garbage. As a disabled person, I had challenges going to the toilet, and it was always in a poor state anyways, used by many people and smelling terribly.

Now, not only are there more toilets available, they are even made more accessible to use for a person like me, thanks to what SIDO built through the EU-REINTEG project and UNDP. My daughter – who is 19 – has been taking part in the Cash for Work activities and we will earn

\$150 thanks to her work. We hope to use this money to buy household items as well as much-needed school materials for my grandchildren, who will begin school soon. I also hope to use \$50 to start a small business, like selling food or merchandise on the streets. This way, I will also be able to further provide for my family.”



***Markabo Ali Adan** (age 48), resident of the Deeq Rabbi IDP Camp (Kaxda district, Mogadishu)*

“Sometimes life in the camp is very difficult. No job, no income and yet children need food. I have 7 children to provide for; when they are sick, I don’t have money to buy medicine. I am very excited to take part in this Cash for Work Project, as it has been providing us with opportunities we have never had before. I now have a job, even though it may be only for short period.

This project is building more toilets for us and, most importantly, a school where my children can at least learn how to read and write. We have learnt a lot about hygiene and now our camp is cleaner. As there are more toilets, fewer households are now using the same toilet, unlike before, when we used to queue in the morning because one toilet was serving over 20 households.

I am happy to have been selected as a Cash for Work beneficiary, first of all because I have learnt a lot on hygiene and sanitation and how to keep our surroundings clean. Moreover, I would like to use the money I will earn for my work to repay a current debt with a shop that has been providing me with household items on credit.

I will use the remaining balance to buy a bicycle and start renting it out to teenagers – for their entertainments and make income. I want to thank SIDO, UNDP and European Union for restoring sanitation in the camp and making it possible for our children to have the opportunity to go to school.”