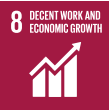




Designing an innovative diaspora youth mentorship programme in Somalia

Overview

Main partner	The <u>Department of Diaspora Affairs (DoDA)</u> is the executive public authority operating under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Somalia, responsible for mobilising, engaging and coordinating the global Somali diaspora.   
Duration	9 months
Sustainable Development Goals	  

Project design

Objective	To strengthen the capacity of the DoDA to conceptualise a diaspora youth mentoring scheme that connects Somali youth with diaspora mentors for skills development, career guidance and professional exposure.
Needs	The DoDA is seeking to establish a practical framework to address youth unemployment in Somalia by improving links between education, labour-market needs, and diaspora expertise. The project will support the transition from fragmented mentoring initiatives toward a structured and scalable national model by strengthening DoDA's capacity to coordinate diaspora-youth collaboration, promote skills development, and create clearer pathways to employment in priority sectors.
Context	Somalia has one of the most severe youth unemployment rates globally, reaching 34.23% in 2025. More than 60% of young people are not in education, employment, or training (NEET), and many who are employed work in informal or underpaid roles. Female youth are disproportionately affected, deepening poverty and contributing to social and political instability. At the same time, Somalia's demographic profile presents a significant opportunity with a median age of 18 and 75% of the population under 30. With one of the largest diasporas estimated at 2 million nationals abroad, including highly skilled professionals who are motivated to contribute to national development, it offers an additional strategic advantage.
Target groups	- Department of Diaspora Affairs staff - Ministry of Foreign Affairs staff - Somali youth and diaspora communities worldwide
Impact	The project aims to strengthen national systems for youth employability by co-designing a comprehensive diaspora mentoring scheme to be integrated into DoDA's core operations. At the individual level, Somali youth will gain access to structured, high-quality mentorship and practical skills development through coordinated engagement of Somali diaspora professionals. The project also reinforces DoDA's mandate to coordinate diaspora engagement, contributing to its long-term objective of establishing structured mechanisms that connect Somalis abroad with national development efforts.

Programme of activities

