



Dr. Tasnim, a Somali diaspora laboratory scientist from London, stands with the veterinarian students she is training at the Somali National University. © IOM/Spotlight 2021

To address overall migration challenges in Somalia, IOM works closely with the Federal Government of Somalia, regional authorities, the UN, donor governments and civil society by implementing programmes through three pillars: (1) Preparedness and humanitarian response; (2) Long term recovery and durable solutions; and, (3) Migration governance and development. Since 2006, IOM has delivered frontline services to crisis-affected populations, while steadily developing models and partnerships for longer term recovery and migration governance. With over 450 staff, IOM Somalia operates from its main office in Mogadishu, seven field offices and eight satellite offices, as well as the Nairobi Support Office in Kenya.

SITUATION OVERVIEW



A mother carrying water in Barwaqo II
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The humanitarian crisis in Somalia, characterized by both natural and conflict, is one of the most complex and longstanding emergencies in the world. Due to decades of poverty, marginalization, armed violence, insecurity, political instability, natural hazards and lack of development, the humanitarian situation remains critical in the country. Recurrent natural disasters have been devastating for Somali communities and continue to drive displacement, while ongoing conflict impacts protection and human rights, reduce resilience and hinder access to basic services.

Somalia is experiencing drier and hotter weather conditions due to below average rainfall. Water shortages are being reported across the country, which has already displaced over 80,000 people and is leading to increased food insecurity and pre-drought conditions.

The country is dealing with the third wave of COVID-19 with over 9,000 confirmed case in early March. COVID-19 continues to impact migrants transiting the country and is expected that they will remain longer in Somaliland and Puntland, as they do not have the financial means to continue their journey or return home. Migrants continue to require humanitarian support, including food and non-food items, and need access to services including health care and protection services.

HIGHLIGHTS January & February 2021



61,664 PEOPLE consulted at IOM supported health clinics



Over **120,000** INDIVIDUALS reached with **CLEAN** and **SAFE WATER**



121,875 INDIVIDUALS reached with **COVID-19** awareness and sensitization



40,902 MOVEMENTS tracked in September and October at 7 Flow Monitoring Points (FMP)



200 FAMILIES assisted with shelter in Baidoa



111 INDIVIDUALS attended **COMMUNITY INITIATIVES** conducted in support of promoting successful reintegration.



3 PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE projects completed including a borehole, a community centre and solar streelights



185 MIGRANTS from Yemen received **MEDICAL ASSISTANCE**



51 DIASPORA EXPERTS active



29 LOCAL INTERNS/EXPERTS trained

70 MICROSOFT LICENSES handed over to support MIDAS

IOM contributed to the COVID-19 response in Somalia to halt further transmission of COVID-19 and mitigate the impact of the outbreak, including the socio-economic impact. For detailed information on IOM's COVID-19 activities per programmatic area in 2020, please read more in [IOM's Annual COVID-19 Preparedness and Response Update](#).

Baidoa Relocation Phase II

In January and February, IOM and partners in Baidoa continued to prepare the new public site, Barwaaqo II, which will support the relocation of 1,009 displaced households. IOM prepared and demarcated the plots of land that will be assigned to each of the households. A total of 510 latrines were constructed, providing one sanitation facility per two households. In addition, to address the needs of people living with disabilities, a total of 38 disability-friendly latrines were constructed. To prevent the sites from flooding, a drainage system was developed, and a total of 12,058 metres of primary and secondary drainage systems have been excavated by 90 community members through a Cash-for-Work approach.

The South West State Commission for Refugees and IDPs identified and selected 17 IDP sites to be relocated. The sites were selected based on the results of the eviction risk assessment that was conducted in August 2020. IOM and government authorities informed the IDP leaders of the selected sites about the relocation plan and the services available at the new site. In addition, community mobilization activities were conducted at the household level to ensure that the community is well-informed about their relocation. Following these information sessions, 909 households residing in IDP sites at risk of eviction and 100 vulnerable households from the host community were registered for relocation. The relocation activity will commence in March 2021 and it will be reported in the next bi-monthly report.

STORY: Finding Durable Solutions to Somalia's Internal Displacement



HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE



Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM)

IOM improves the living conditions and protection of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in sites and settlements and ensure equitable access to services and assistance of all persons in need in the regions of Kismayo, Doolow and Baidoa. IOM is the co-lead of the CCCM Cluster in Somalia.

BAIDOA

863 COMPLAINTS received through the Complaints and Feedback Mechanism (CFM)
Addressed: **99%**

239 IDP SITES supported

75,786 INDIVIDUALS reached with **COVID-19** awareness and sensitization

DOOLOW

1,262 COMPLAINTS received through the Complaints and Feedback Mechanism (CFM)
Addressed: **99%**

2 IDP SITES supported

5,639 INDIVIDUALS reached with **COVID-19** awareness and sensitization

KISMAYO

1,120 COMPLAINTS received through the Complaints and Feedback Mechanism (CFM)
Addressed: **74%**

99 IDP SITES supported

40,449 INDIVIDUALS reached with **COVID-19** awareness and sensitization

FLOOD MITIGATION IN KISMAYO IDP SITES

In 2020, Somalia faced an above average number of floods due to heavy rains and river breakages. IDP sites are particularly vulnerable to flooding as they are often located at lower elevations, near riverbanks or they lack appropriate drainage systems. In Kismayo, CCCM conducted an assessment in April 2019 to identify sites at risk of flooding. Out of 133 sites, 80 sites (60%) were at risk of flooding, in particular those located in catchment areas close to the ocean. Furthermore, the flooding in 2020 affected over 9,500 households from both IDP and host communities. In response, IOM is constructing appropriate drainage systems in 35 IDP sites in Kismayo. IOM will also use flood proofing techniques to rehabilitate communal infrastructures that were devastated by flood. A total of 23,364 people will benefit from these flood mitigation activities.

 **23,364 INDIVIDUALS** will benefit from flood mitigation activities in **35 IDP SITES**

CAMP COORDINATION AND CAMP MANAGEMENT CLUSTER

The CCCM cluster created a Site Monitoring Dashboard, an interactive dashboard for partners and cluster coordinators to analyse needs and gaps that exist in covered IDP sites. Also, a Complaints and Feedback Mechanism (CFM) and Site Monitoring Refresher Training was organized for CFM focal points and IOM to improve the collection and follow-up of complaints and feedback from the IDPs.

831 SITES established with CCCM mechanisms supporting 1,020,000 IDPs

 **10 DISTRICTS** with CCCM **COMPLAINTS AND FEEDBACK MECHANISMS** activated

16 CCCM PARTNERS



Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

Adequate access to water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) is essential in order to prevent dehydration and reduce the risk of water-related diseases such as diarrhoea, cholera and other potential outbreaks. IOM Somalia WASH programme focuses on the immediate provision of WASH services to affected populations across Somalia whilst IOM works closely with the government to identify sustainable water solutions to address acute water needs in the country.



Water system built in Barwaaqo 2. © IOM/Foresight Films 2020



Over **57,000 INDIVIDUALS** assisted with **SAFE WATER** through **39 SHALLOW WELLS**



63,112 INDIVIDUALS assisted with **SAFE WATER** through new and rehabilitated **BOREHOLES** providing **27,721,800 LITRES OF WATER**



9,000 INDIVIDUALS received **2,990,000 LITRES OF WATER** through **EMERGENCY WATER TRUCKING** in Marka



33 HYGIENE PROMOTERS reached **79,902 INDIVIDUALS** through hygiene promotion activities

EMERGENCY RESPONSE IN MARKA

During the last week of December 2020, over 15,000 people were forcibly evicted in Marka, Lower Shabelle. They sought refuge in Buufow Bacaad village, five kilometres north of Marka, and are in dire need of emergency humanitarian support. IOM provided almost 7,000,000 litres of clean and safe water to 1,500 households. Moreover, 200 latrines with internal locks, adequate lightning and hand-washing stands have been constructed. The team will continue supporting the households evicted in Marka over the coming weeks.

LIVELIHOOD SUPPORT IN BAIDOA AND KISMAYO

Technical and vocational training institutions were selected and will provide training to 55 youths in Kismayo and Baidoa. The training will aim to provide youth residing in IDP sites and neighbouring communities with skills in solar electricity, plumbing, construction and tailoring.

HYGIENE AND SANITATION PROMOTION

IOM continued to support the most vulnerable communities in Bossaso (Puntland) with hygiene and sanitation promotion activities with the aim to reduce the spread of COVID-19 among returning migrants and their communities of return. This initiative reached more than 13,000 individuals.

MIGRATION, ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE (MECC)

IOM launched a research on "Identifying Climate Adaptive Solutions to Displacement in Somalia" together with United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). The research identified eleven policy recommendations and specific areas of interventions to inform durable solutions to displacement and climate change adaptation interventions in urban areas. Find the report [here](#).



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Health

IOM delivers and promotes accessible, equitable and comprehensive, preventive and curative health programmes which contributes towards the physical, mental and social well-being of migrants, enabling them and host communities to achieve social and economic development. IOM aims to deliver basic health care services for migrants and mobile populations who face many obstacles in accessing essential health care services due to the recurrent drought and continuous conflict.

IOM provided essential health care services to IDPs, host communities, migrants and returnees through 30 static health facilities, 1 mobile clinics, 3 transit centers and 3 migration response centers.



IOM health staff provides nutrition services to children in one of the health centres supported by IOM in Kismayo. © IOM/Foresight Films 2021

-  **61,664 INDIVIDUALS** visited the health facilities for consultations
-  **13,465 CHILDREN** were **IMMUNIZED**
-  **1,151 BABIES DELIVERED** at supported health facilities
-  **22,099 CHILDREN** screened for **MALNUTRITION**
-  **836 CHILDREN** with **SEVERE ACUTE MALNUTRITION (SAM)** admitted for treatment
-  **14,680 WOMEN** and other family members were informed about **INFANT AND YOUNG CHILD FEEDING** practices
-  **49,865 PEOPLE** reached through **COVID-19** awareness sessions at IOM supported health facilities

TELEMEDICINE

In January, IOM donated digital equipment to the Federal Ministry of Health in Somalia to support the introduction of telemedicine into Somalia's healthcare system. Especially during the COVID-19 pandemic, telemedicine could be a solution for Somali health facilities to diagnose and treat patients. Frontline healthcare workers, fighting COVID-19 and other diseases often have limited expertise and experience treating critically ill patients. The lack of diagnostic resources and very limited modern medical technology can create havoc in a public health emergency. The telemedicine project uses video cameras, screens, personal computers and digital mobile devices such as tablets to enhance diagnosis and treatment of patients. The introduction of telemedicine into Somalia's health system aims to help local medical professionals access a growing online, digital and video-based reference "library" of diagnostic expertise within Somalia and beyond its borders. Several hospitals and health clinics in Somalia are being equipped to strengthen their capacity to provide healthcare services through remote diagnosis and treatment.

COVID-19 RESPONSE

IOM donated ICU equipment and accessories to the De Martino hospital in Mogadishu including breathing circuits, oxygen face masks, oxygen cylinders, wheelchairs, intubation kits among other items. IOM also donated Personal Protection Equipment (PPEs), including face masks and hand sanitizers, and will support the hospital to adequately treat COVID-19 patients.

MENTAL HEALTH AND PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT (MHPSS)

In Baidoa, Hargeisa and Mogadishu, 24 migrants were assisted by IOM via the MHPSS Surge Team through mental health and psychosocial support sessions. This included psychological first aid, individual counselling, follow-ups through home visits and MRC visits, referrals to medical services, caregiver support, and stress management sessions.

IOM conducted a Training of Trainers (ToT) for SOYDAVO, IOM's implementing partner in Hargeisa for MHPSS support to migrants and returnees, on concepts of MHPSS and migration, psychologically informed care approach, supportive community skills, and psychological first aid for vulnerable migrants. In addition, six IOM staff members were trained on MHPSS. They will train Community Health Workers (CHWs) in Doolow, Baidoa and Kismayo to increase their capacity to support people who may need mental health and psychosocial support.

PRIMARY HEALTH CARE

IOM continued to provide essential health care and nutrition services to IDPs, host communities, migrants and returnees. IOM constructed an underground water tank with the capacity of 10,000 cubic metres that will supply water to the IOM supported Health Centre in Baidoa. IOM and MoH Puntland trained 12 health workers on Expanded Programme on Immunization (EPI) who will provide high-quality EPI services in IOM supported health clinics in Puntland.

CLINICAL MENTORSHIP PROGRAMME

IOM is implementing a clinical mentorship programme that aims to address HIV and TB service delivery gaps and strengthen quality of service provision in Somalia. As part of sustainability of the clinical mentorship project, IOM donated 30 desktop computers to the HIV/TB departments of the Federal Ministry of Health, Ministry of Health in Puntland and the Ministry of Health Development in Somaliland, which will be distributed to mentor institutions in Hargeisa, Garowe and Banadir regions. The IT equipment will help the national mentors to access virtual learning resources and participate in telemedicine activities. In 2021, IOM will continue its capacity building activities for national and sub-national hospitals across the country in HIV and TB service delivery.

A group of mothers attend a session to learn about optimal feeding infant practices in one of the health centres supported by IOM in Kismayo. © IOM/Foresight Films 2021





Shelter and Non-Food Items (S-NFI)

Depending on the affected community's vulnerabilities, assets, capacities, and preferences, IOM provides identified populations with transitional shelters or more permanent structures through in-kind and/or cash-based intervention.



1,500 HOUSEHOLDS in Bossaso assisted with **NFIS**

200 HOUSEHOLDS in Baidoa assisted with **SHELTERS**

SHELTERS THROUGH CASH-BASED INTERVENTION

In Buurheybe and Garisaane IDP sites in Baidoa, 200 households were targeted under the cash-based intervention for materials to build a robust shelter. The design of the shelter was created in line with local preferences, following community consultation, including women and girls, and will be constructed with materials available in the community. Each shelter has a shaded veranda to provide a safe space for cooking and other household tasks and metal sheet roofing to protect against heavy rainfall. A USD 800 voucher was provided to each household, in three tranches, subject to successful completion of each stage of shelter building.

NFI RESPONSE TO CYCLONE GATI IN BOSSASO

Four villages and five IDP sites in Bossaso, with a total of 1,500 households, were supported with crucial NFIs through a cash-based intervention, following the devastating impact of Cyclone Gati. Over 60 NFIs are available from four different vendors, allowing each household to prioritize their family's needs. Through this approach, there will be a capital injection of USD 150,000 into the local economy through the four vendors, which will help stimulate the economy after the cyclone. This is the first intervention these beneficiaries have received in the wake of Cyclone Gati and there has already been positive feedback from beneficiaries on the variety of items available compared to other CBIs.



Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM)

IOM Somalia Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) strives to provide localized, up-to-date information on the basic needs of the target population, cross border mobility, displacement figures and trends in drought affected areas.

BASELINE 2 (B2) EXERCISE IN GEDO AND LOWER JUBA REGION

B2 is a component of IOM's Mobility Tracking (MT) exercise that aims to quantify presence of population categories within defined locations at a given time. B2 is the second phase of MT and is conducted at the settlement level in wah/neighbourhoods, tulo/villages and IDP sites. This second phase gathers information on settlements including estimations of numbers of households and individuals disaggregated by each population category. This information is collected in the field through key informants' interviews and direct observations and triangulated with other data sources. During this reporting period, IOM completed a B2 exercise in Gedo and Lower Juba region and the findings will be ready during the next reporting period.

Movements tracked: **21,601**
(January) and **19,301** (February)

Movements are monitored at
7 FLOW MONITORING POINTS

Movements **DECREASED** by
19% in **FEBRUARY** compared to
DECEMBER



24,916
ENTRIES INTO
SOMALIA



11,094
EXISTS FROM
SOMALIA

Read more about DTM activities in 2020 through the Annual Report [here](#)

VISIT DTM SOMALIA WEBSITE HERE
to find DTM latest reports, interactive maps, dashboards and data sets.

STABILIZATION, TRANSITION & RECOVERY



Recovery and Durable Solutions (RDS)

IOM works to bridge humanitarian, development and peace/state building efforts and operationalize a paradigm shift from aid-agency driven modalities to one where the government and community co-design and lead their nationally aligned and owned programming. IOM's activities promote: durable solutions for returnees and IDPs; increased social cohesion; improved government capacities to lead on durable solutions at Federal Member States and district levels in urban and peri-urban areas.



3 PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE projects completed including a borehole, a community centre and solar streelights



1 PEACEBUILDING activity

DHUUSAMARREEB WOMEN MEDIATION WORKSHOP

IOM supported the Galmudug Ministry of Women and Human Rights Development to facilitate a three-day mediation workshop for women from two political divides in Dhuusamarreeb, following a request from the government. This activity was aimed to foster social cohesion among women and to establish an unanimously agreed leadership structure and working platforms. In total, 100 women participated in this event, also including women from government ministries and the President's Office.

REHABILITATION OF HOBYO COMMUNITY CENTRE

The rehabilitation and refurbishment of the Hobyo Community Centre was completed. The rehabilitation of the community centre, which was constructed by the government before the civil war, was one of the priorities identified by the community through intensive community-based planning process. The centre will serve different socioeconomic groups, involving the local authority and community representatives. The centre will address specific needs of youth groups from Hobyo and provide a place for meetings across clan and displacement group divisions, to contribute to cohesion. The centre includes a mini sport field (football pitch), four rehabilitated rooms for office and training, and sanitation facilities. Approximately 4,000 people will benefit from this centre.

LAND DISPUTE AND LAND INFORMATION MANAGEMENT TRAINING

A land dispute and land information management training was conducted for the Land Authority and Land Court in Kismayo District, Jubaland State. The training was organised under UN PBF-funded Dhulka Nabaada (Land of Peace) Consortium and attended by 20 Land Authority officials and judges.

WATER FOR HELIWA IDP SITE IN MOGADISHU

IOM constructed a solar powered borehole at Heliwa IDP site in Mogadishu that will serve 4,200 people across the IDP and host community areas. The construction, done in collaboration with Danwadaag Durable Solutions Consortium, includes four water kiosks and two water tanks, each with 40 cubic water holding capacity, ensuring sufficient storage.

STREETLIGHTS IN JANAALÉ

IOM installed streetlights in Janaale, a town in Lower Shabelle. The 50 solar-powered streetlights, installed along two kilometres of road, will offer a safe and secure environment at night to Janaale residents. The streetlights bolster the local administration's effort to ensure security in town. Read story [here](#).

New streelights in Janaale © IOM 2021





Disengagement, Disassociation, Reintegration and Reconciliation (DDRR)

IOM works with marginalized youth at risk in Preventing Violent Extremism (PVE) and social cohesion, and supports the Federal Government of Somalia's National Programme for the Treatment and Handling of Disengaged Combatants.



111 INDIVIDUALS attended
COMMUNITY INITIATIVES
conducted in support of promoting
successful reintegration.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

To facilitate a culturally sensitive reintegration of men and women formerly associated with extremist groups, IOM continues to implement culturally familiar social activities that facilitate a safe space for expression and story sharing. IOM is using art and sport-based approaches to engage different members of community in a dialogue. In the months of January and February, IOM and its implementing partners in Kismayo and Baidoa co-designed and implemented poetry workshops, Somali traditional storytelling gatherings, and sport games. The aim of these activities is to contribute to overall psychosocial wellbeing and community cohesion. All activities have been followed-up with community dialogue discussing themes of early marriage, social disruption in communities, unity, identity and belonging, trust and acceptance.

LIVELIHOODS ACTIVITIES

IOM kickstarted new livelihood activities, including industrial tailoring, permagardening, and restaurant management in Kismayo and Baidoa. In the industrial tailoring class, women produced both canvas and leather handbags of their own designs. In January and February, permagardening pilot rolled out, while IOM has also provided training to the Civil Society Partner Organizations on how to plant a nursery following permaculture techniques as a food security measure. Additional TVET curriculums for Tuk Tuk repair, mobile and computer repair, electrical works and masonry were finalized and are in process of validation by the Ministry of Education.

LIVELIHOODS SUCCESS

A group of eight former female graduates came together to create a small cooperative in goat keeping. Each woman contributed a portion of their livelihood grant to the account and now the women divide the earnings amongst themselves, thus being able to support themselves and their families with basic living expenses.



MIGRATION GOVERNANCE & DEVELOPMENT



Immigration and Border Management (IBM)

IOM supports the Government of Somalia in promoting safe and orderly migration, securing borders and building the capacity of immigration officials.

IOM currently supports **22 Ports of Entry in Somalia**, and it includes 10 airports, 5 seaports and 7 land posts.



70 MICROSOFT LICENSES handed over to support MIDAS

EQUIPMENT FOR KHEYDAR BORDER POST

IOM procured and handed over Migration Information and Data Analysis System (MIDAS) equipment to the Immigration and Naturalization Directorate (IND) for the Kheydar port of entry (PoE), located in Galmudug region, bordering Ethiopia and constructed by IOM in 2020. IOM's MIDAS is a border information system developed by IOM which collects, processes, stores, and analyses traveler information in real time and across an entire border network. MIDAS enables states to effectively monitor those entering and exiting their territories. The system will provide real time data to IND headquarters in Mogadishu. Additionally, IOM provided 70 Microsoft licenses for the IND headquarters, enabling them to update their systems supporting MIDAS, and will ensure effective operation of the system by enhancing the safety of data collected by immigration officials.

CAPACITY BUILDING FOR THE IMMIGRATION AND NATURALIZATION DIRECTORATE (IND)

Through IOM's MIDA programme, the Immigration and Naturalization Directorate (IND) has been working with a diaspora human resources expert to improve the administrative capacity of the HR department. The expert has been transferring his skills to IND Human Resources staff by providing tailored training. The expert facilitated a review of the IND's HR policy, and conducted a number of trainings on hiring processes and IND's code of conduct. The expert will continue to train IND staff while at the same time improving IND's performance management system.

Training on awareness and prevention of COVID-19 for frontline immigration officers. © IOM 2020





Engineer Aliyow (top-left), Dr Ubah (bottom-left) and Dr. Mustafa (right) are some of the diaspora experts recruited through the MIDA programme. © IOM/Spotlight 2021



Labour Mobility and Human Development (LHD)

IOM promotes pathways of labour migration, enhancing coordination for diaspora engagement, strengthening institutional capacity and, mitigating the drivers of irregular migration.

51 DIASPORA EXPERTS,
23 LOCAL INTERNS and
6 LOCAL EXPERTS, placed in
 different institutions

- **14** diaspora experts and
interns in **HOSPITALS** and
HEALTH INSTITUTIONS
- **12** diaspora experts/
interns in **EDUCATIONAL**
INSTITUTIONS
- **68** diaspora experts/interns
in **MINISTRIES**
- **2** diaspora experts/interns in
DIASPORA Organizations

INTER-REGIONAL WORKSHOP TO STRENGTHEN THE EDUCATION SECTOR

To strengthen the development of the education sector in Somalia, the Ministry of Education, Culture and Higher education with support from IOM, conducted a three-day workshop from 25 to 27 January 2021 in Mogadishu. A total of 15 participants attended the workshop. The main objective of the training was to equip the participants with knowledge on planning, management and quality assurance as well as disaster management in the education sector. Two diaspora experts, the Research Technical Advisor based at Somali National University and the Teacher Training Technical Advisor based at the Jubaland Ministry of Education, designed and facilitated the training.

PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN SOMALIA NATIONAL UNIVERSITY AND UNIVERSITY OF HELSINKI

IOM supports the partnership between Somalia National University and University of Helsinki to review and improve the curriculum and pedagogical methods in Somalia National University. The two universities had a virtual workshop from 8 to 11 February 2021, which was attended by 26 staff from the different departments of Somalia National University. The workshop was coordinated by the Curriculum Development Technical Advisor SNU, also a diaspora expert.



Migrant Protection and Assistance (MPA)

IOM provides technical expertise in areas of migration policy, administrative and operational practices, procedures for countering human trafficking and smuggling, and direct assistance to migrants.

-  **113 MIGRANTS** from Yemen were registered in Berbera and
-  **31** received **MEDICAL CARE** and **22** with **TRAVEL ASSISTANCE**
-  **319 MIGRANTS** from Yemen were registered in Bossaso and **154** received **MEDICAL ASSISTANCE**
-  **36 RETURNEES** received reintegration support through cash and counselling sessions
-  **29 RETURNEES** attended a 'Start and Improve Your Business Training' in Hargeisa
-  **27 RETURNEES** participated in the small business management and bookkeeping training by SOYDAVO

-  **7,990 PEOPLE**, living in areas with a high number of migrant returnees, were reached in Bossaso, through **COMMUNITY HYGIENE** promotion activities
-  **305 MIGRANTS** at Bossaso's MRC and surroundings were reached through **COVID-19** awareness sessions
-  **90 MIGRANTS** at Hareisa's MRC reached through **COVID-19** awareness sessions
-  **50 INDIVIDUALS AND RETURNEES** received **FOOD** in Hargeisa

WASTE MANAGEMENT PROJECT

The project *To Promote Waste Management in Mogadishu whilst Fostering Social Cohesion between Migrant Returnees and Communities of Return* continued, as IOM's partner, African Solution Company organized an event for returning migrants and host communities in Mogadishu to raise awareness on environmental degradation. The participants (92 female / 8 male) discussed topics such as air pollution, deforestation, solid waste solution, drought and water security.

CLIMATE ADAPTIVE COMMUNITY BASED REINTEGRATION

IOM's partner, Candlelight, developed a training on fertility improvement, moisture harvesting techniques, crop rotation, pest and disease management, planting techniques and market linkage improvement, targeting returnee communities in Burao. A total of 37 people participated in the first training, while a second training on livestock management involved 40 participants. Additionally, 60 beneficiaries will be engaged through cash for work activities in counter ploughing.

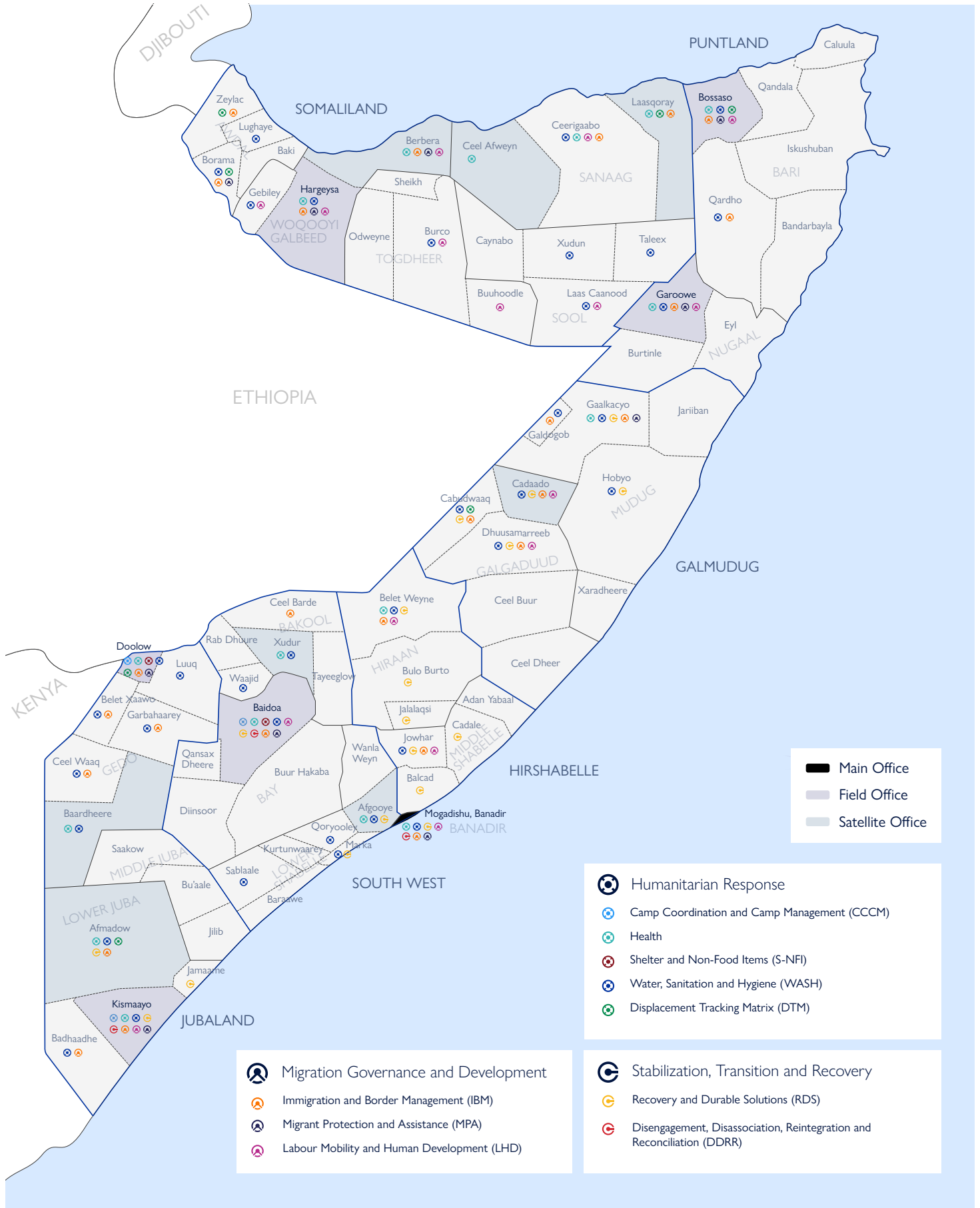
TVET SKILL TRAINING

A training on beekeeping, honey manufacturing, tree nursery establishment and tree management was conducted for 50 people (17 male returnees, 3 female returnees, 5 male host community members, 25 female host community members) by IOM's partner Hano Academy. The participants learned how to use modern beekeeping techniques in their local context which will eventually lead to healthier honeybee populations. They also gained knowledge on the importance of afforestation and environmental conservation. The project is implemented in Balcad District, Middle Shabelle, a traditional farming region and historically the 'breadbasket' of Somalia.

So far, 50 beehives have been installed and 10,000 trees planted. Trainees have been assigned with 200 trees, including fruit trees, to take care of. The trainees were encouraged to involve their family members in the activities and to practice intercropping of trees and food crops to ensure ownership and sustainability. The next phase of the project will involve trainees in the creation of two Village Saving and Loans associations (VSLAs) aimed at establishing a sustainable, local and regional route to market for honey products.



IOM Somalia Operations Map



Returnee Survives Blast in Mogadishu and Makes a Fresh Start

An explosion in Mogadishu cost Mohamed* his business, forcing him to head back to the drawing board.

He had returned to Somalia in May 2018, at the age of 22. His dream of getting to Europe collapsed in one of Libya's detention centres, and he feels lucky to have come out alive.

"The reason why I had migrated was to have better opportunities such as work, education, a better living standard, and to change the living conditions of my family, especially my mother who suffered a lot to care for me and my siblings," he said.

With support from the EU-IOM Joint Initiative for Migrant Protection and Reintegration in the Horn of Africa he set up a grocery business in early 2019.

However, an unexpected attack carried out by an extremist group destroyed his business and put on hold many of his plans. He escaped with no permanent injuries, although people died. The blast left Mohamed with no source of income, prompting him to throw his lot with his mother who ran her own store.

"My mother has a grocery business located in a populated area in the street near our home," he said. "Her customers mostly come from within the neighbourhood and with not many shops around the area the customers are quite many. There are many regular customers who collect items on a monthly basis on credit and pay their debt at the end of the month."

Even then, this was not an easy way out, now least because Mohamed had to assist in providing for several family members. He had become beholden to them especially as he realised upon his return that they had had to borrow a lot of money to help pay for his trip.

Yet the hardest part about returning to Somalia was having to live with the unfulfilled dream of becoming well-to-do, and even wealthy. In addition to the stigma of being viewed as a failed migrant, Mohamed also struggled with mistrust. "Whenever I ask for support from the community, they think I want to re-migrate again," he said.

A small respite came when he was among those who received food from a distribution organised by the EU-IOM Joint Initiative in July 2020. The assistance was meant to address the basic needs of returnees in vulnerable situations following the outbreak of COVID-19.

While looking for a job opportunity at a time of diminished economic activity due to the pandemic, Mohamed continued to work in his mother's business which had remained operational despite the restrictions.

In November 2020, his prospects began to look up. He received a USD1,200 cash assistance to plough into a new business.

Under the EU-IOM Joint Initiative, second level assistance for reintegration is provided only in the case of loss due to unforeseen circumstances, either man-made or due to a natural disaster. This is availed when case managers have carried out an accurate vulnerability assessment to confirm specific needs and eligibility for additional support.

"IOM is committed to supporting the reintegration journey of returnees like Mohamed. There are circumstances that are outside our control, like what happened to his shop. Acknowledging that, we strive to ensure that everyone receives the same opportunities upon their return to restart their lives," said Isaac Munyae, Coordinator of the EU-IOM Joint Initiative in Somalia.

A month after receiving the cash assistance, Mohamed was back in business. This is allowing him to support his large family, composed of three boys, five girls, one elderly member and two with physical disabilities. "I am working as a sole entrepreneur in a densely populated area known as Sanaa Junction and my business is doing great," he said.

Now wiser, not only on account of his age but more so due to his experiences, Mohamed sees migration differently. If there was anything he'd want to say to young Somalis, "my message for them is never to risk your life on something that is nearly impossible. Many have failed to realise their dreams on irregular migration, many lost their lives, and some of them got life-threatening illnesses and injuries."

When young Somalis like Mohamed migrate towards Europe, they often follow the Northern Route, crossing into Sudan and Libya with the intention of continuing by sea, which makes the trip one of the most dangerous migration journeys in the world.

*Name changed to protect the identity of the individual

