



QUESTS-MIDA (Qualified Expatriate Somali Technical Support)

“QUESTS-MIDA is a joint initiative among Somali authorities, UNDP Somalia and the International Organization for Migration (IOM) that facilitates the transfer of skills, knowledge, and experience from qualified Somali expatriates in the Diaspora to public sector institutions in Somalia.”

This program falls under UNDP’s Somali Institutional Development Program (SIDP).

Objectives
By providing Somali national institutions with a ready supply of top quality experts, QUESTS-MIDA allows government institutions, while not neglecting training and development, to focus on the delivery of much needed public services.

Key areas of intervention
Specifically, the Project provides technical assistance to a variety of Somali institutions in four key areas:

- 1) Public financial management, transparency, and accountability;
- 2) Development planning and aid coordination;
- 3) Public sector and parliamentary reform; and
- 4) Implementation of good governance standards and quality controls during the political transition in Somalia.

Support provided by QUESTS-MIDA to the participants

- Managing the entire recruiting and monitoring process, which is carried out in a systematic and transparent manner;
- Facilitating contact between selected participants and the beneficiary institutions;
- Providing the participants with necessary documentation, briefings and logistical assistance;
- Providing the

- participants with medical and evacuation insurance;
- Monitoring the participants while in assignment;
- Supporting the host institutions on providing the participants with an adequate working environment.

Added value
The **sustainability** of the program is ensured by the skills and knowledge that QUESTS-MIDA diaspora placements transfer to their local colleagues. The program is not a gap filling measure, but rather an institutional memory builder.

IOM & UNDP IN ACTION

- The project **began in 2009** and is in the process of completing its second phase.
- Under this phase, **42 participants** have been placed throughout all three regions of Somalia.
- **These experts** can be found at such ministries as Interior, Finance, Planning, and in such agencies as Civil Aviation, and the Civil Service Commission, among others.
- IOM recently signed an agreement with UNDP for the third phase that will include **30 participants**.

IOM realized that the diaspora is the best agent for development because they have the best of both worlds. They possess the skills and knowledge acquired in their host countries and they know the local context of their countries of origin. Put this together, one has a winning combination for **non-traditional development**.

The level of **ownership** of the institutional counterparts is absolute since the project is demand-driven and all the process is led by the beneficiary institutions.

Context

For the first time in 20 years Somalia managed to conduct a relatively democratic election and is engaged in the process of reconstructing of its institutions. Based on the ongoing process of stabilization, IOM strongly supports and promotes the sustainable and long lasting financial and technical commitment of

the diaspora, in terms of private investments and transfer of skills. In this perspective, the program aims not only at building lasting ties between the Somali diaspora and their country of origin but also at containing (in a short term perspective) and reverse (in a medium-long term perspective) the brain drain trend.

As such, IOM has as one of its priorities to search for, facilitate the return of, and place Somali diaspora experts at various Somali institutions to do institutional capacity development.

The Somali diaspora is playing an increasing role in promoting the development and reconstruction of the fragile Somali state and their contributions have been officially recognized by the international community and the Somali Government as absolutely essential.



“THERE IS A HUGE BRAIN-DRAIN IN SOMALIA AND THE COUNTRY IS SUFFERING FROM A LACK OF HUMAN CAPITAL.”

*His Excellency Dr Abdiweli Ali,
Former Prime Minister of the Transitional Federal Government (TFG)*

The Prime Minister of the Transitional Federal Government, Dr. Abdiweli Ali, was at one point a participant of the program as an **expert advisor to the Ministry of Planning of the State of Puntland**. Dr Abdiweli contends that Somali professionals living outside the country should come home with their skills and experience because ‘there is a huge brain-drain in Somalia and the country is suffering from a lack of human capital.’ To reverse this imbalance, Dr. Abdiweli sees that ‘it is time to go back’ home. From his own perspective, this is not only about reversing the brain drain, but is also about giving back to society that had invested in these professionals since many of them acquired their formative education in Somalia. To that end, he said, ‘My intention is to help and to give back...’

“You can have a good life in the U.S. and never leave, but the question in life is how you make a difference. If I can change just one life for the better, then I have done my work on Earth. What is it they say? To whom much is given much is expected.”

His Excellency Dr Abdiweli Ali,
Former Prime Minister of the Transitional Federal Government (TFG)

WE WORK WITH:

- Government
- Somali diaspora
- Civil society
- Private sector



HEALTHY MIGRANTS IN HEALTHY COMMUNITIES

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WITH THANKS TO OUR PARTNER:

