



## L i v e l i h o o d - e c o n o m i c e m p o w e r m e n t

### 4 Business Information Services Centers (B.I.S.C.) open their doors for young entrepreneurs in Central Somalia.



**April 2011** – CISP has established its new B.I.S.C.s in Galkayo South, Dhusamareeb, Guriel and Adaado (managed by local partner CPD) in Central Somalia.

The project, piloted in Somalia, is based on a concept developed by CISP and successfully running in Malawi since 2002. In 2010 the idea was imported in Kenya, where the B.I.S.C in Nairobi is proving to be a crucial recourse centre for entrepreneurs and savings groups from the most marginalized areas of the town.

In 2011 CISP accepted the challenge to pilot the project also in Galgaduud and Galmudug in central Somalia addressing the need for economic empowerment of self employed youth.

At least 1300 young entrepreneurs are going to benefit from the B.I.S.C's services that range from trainings on business management, business

plan development, provision of small grants, mentorship, to personalized information and support. Particular attention is given to vulnerable young people and graduates from the technical and vocational trainings implemented by CISP in the areas in partnership with Save the Children with EC funds.

In every one of the four urban centers a team composed by BISC coordinators, mentors, trainers and business experts caters for the needs of young people who want to start a new business or boost their existing enterprise. The trainings offered are structured as short courses that can be attended by working people without compromising their schedules.



The project, funded by **USAID** through its partner **EDC**, offers much more than conventional trainings and mentorship. An innovative interactive audio training (IAI) is meant to provide dramatized information, motivation and inspiration for young entrepreneurs. Additionally a so called INFOMATCH system accelerates information

sharing thanks to free text messages among all participants. Interested entrepreneurs just need to register through their nearest BISC and they will be part of a broader information network.

Yet a healthy and successful business is not only a result of business competencies. It is also the product of a healthy person, who values the principles of peaceful coexistence, respect and honesty despite a context of prolonged conflicts and lawlessness. This is the idea behind linking technical competences like sound book keeping, marketing techniques etc. to peace education, gender equity, conflict solution and health and hygiene. Latter being mandatory elements of CISP's training path.



The Italian NGO CISP has been operating in Somalia since 1983 and is present in 30 countries around the world fighting poverty and injustice and supporting community development.



The 4 Business Information Service Centers are open from Saturday to Thursday from 7 to 12:30 am and from 4 to 5:30 pm for all who need advice for their businesses. You can walk in or take an appointment for a personalized business check, a training offer and a mentoring plan tailored to your needs. You can be included in ongoing training sessions or ask to be informed when new trainings come up.

Sector meetings bringing together different stakeholders allow sharing of experience and information, linking new, upcoming to established businesses.