

ENCOURAGING PROGRAM ON VOCATIONAL TRAINING AND EMPLOYMENT PROMOTION IN SOUTH CENTRAL SOMALIA

CISP is working with women and youth groups, enterprises, schools, local authorities and CBOs to offer literacy, technical skills and employment opportunities to young men and women in Galgaduud and South Mudug.



Despite the conflict dominated view of Somalia, there are many empowering and remarkable stories in which Somali people are taking charge of their future. The International Committee for the Development of People (CISP) has stepped in to assist Somali youth in alleviating widespread poverty by equipping them with functional literacy and vocational skills in 6 towns in Galgaduud and South Mudug in Central South Somalia.

While it is expected that the lack of an effective central government and the presence of a variety of local authorities and administration would be a major obstacle in implementing such a project, CISP has witnessed remarkable levels of cooperation amongst the local community groups. A long lasting, stable relationship of trust and mutual commitment built by CISP during the last 28 years of continued intervention in support of health

structures and primary schools in the areas is certainly one of the reasons for this success.

Through this program, started in 2010, CISP is providing literacy and vocational training to over 5,500 Somali youth (of which 57% are women). The project is called “Vocational Education and Training for Accelerated Promotion of Employment project (VETAPE)” and it focuses on youth that are disadvantaged due to displacement, gender, disability or social exclusion because of being ex militia, young people at risk of being involved in the armed conflict etc.

After receiving basic literacy education, Somali youth can take part in on job skills trainings on carpentry, masonry, cloth making and embroidery, general electrician, motor vehicle mechanics, nursing, telecommunication, plumbing, computer applications and secretarial skills, organized in collaboration with local enterprises and service providers.

International Committee for the Development of People (CISP) was founded in Rome in 1983. The INGO has been operating in Somalia since the beginning and is currently implementing projects in the sectors of education, health, water and sanitation, protection and livelihood.



activities meant to boost networking and empower young groups.

Within South Central Somalia, CISP is currently implementing the project in 6 towns, namely: South Galkacyo, Adaado, Dhusa-Mareeb, Guriel, El-deer and Beletweyn.



All pictures: Young men and women participating in on-the-job trainings in various towns in Galgaduud and South Mudug ©CISP



In South Galkayo CISP, in collaboration with the local authorities has set up an Employment Promotion Service Centre that assists youth graduating from the courses and all those who need it in finding or creating employment. Annual trade fairs and support to newly build professional cooperatives are further

The popularity of the project cannot be understated. Large numbers of young people have already registered with the project and it is expected that many more will join. Perhaps even more encouraging for the future of Somalia is the high level of cooperation by local authorities, District Education Committees, Labour Boards and community elders that are in support of an initiative engaging youth in the development of their country. The impact of this project goes beyond job creation. It gives hope and opportunities of growth to a young generation that has never experienced peace.

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