

QUESTS-MIDA BULLETIN

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OPPORTUNITIES IN SOMALIA FOR DIASPORA PROFESSIONALS

The volatile environment in Somalia forced Mohamed and his family to migrate to Finland in search for a safer haven. True to his wish, he managed to go through college where he studied international marketing and gained employment experience with the hope of giving back to his country.

Despite the enormous challenges in Somalia, Mohamed believes in the possibility of a better Somalia—largely through its own nationals who left, but currently are professionals residing in other countries.

His request to the Somalis in the Diaspora is to actively participate in endeavors that will contribute to the peace process and also boost the economy.

Mohamed is confident that if granted the opportunity, Somali skilled migrants in the Diaspora are well equipped with knowledge and skills to restore Somalia through investments, resource mobilization and partnerships at the

international level. Being committed to his home country, he returned to Hargeisa in 2007 where he is running a fast food chain company with a blend of Arabic foods.

Mohamed could not run the business in Finland due to the high taxes, rent and other expenses. He only wishes he had implemented the project earlier if his county had peace and order for his business to thrive. His business encourages the local people to use their own products from the Horn of Africa. The only barrier they face is educating the people about the products — something that may take time.

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According to Mohamed, the scale of the job ahead is challenging as most buildings have been destroyed or turned into refugee camps, and there are no public hospitals. However, “the past is gone, what's done is done,” and the only way forward that seems right to Mohamed is for Somalis to acquire a positive frame of mind as they focus on the present and work hard for a better future.

QUESTS_MIDA

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I HOPE THAT MY FAITH, PASSION, ENERGY, EDUCATION, AND EXPERIENCE WILL BE MY INVESTMENT IN THE FUTURE OF SOMALIA

My family and I resettled to San Diego, but due to our size, we were unable to find affordable accommodation that would allow us to all live together. My brother and I were invited to Lewiston, Maine, where I am currently residing.

The first few months in Lewiston were challenging because we moved here with only the clothes on our backs and a few personal belongings.

I'm not the poster child for the refugee experience in the United States — as refugees we have a broad range of experiences, competencies, and language abilities.

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Diaspora, I believe that we have a
responsibility to rebuild our
Homeland.*

As a refugee in Lewiston, I am grateful and appreciative for those who have welcomed me with open arms. In Lewiston, I have found a family that does not look like me, share my language or my experiences. Our relationship is rooted in a celebration of our differences and a willingness to learn from one another.

I am currently pursuing my Masters degree in Sustainable International Development from Brandeis University and I hope that my faith, passion, energy, education, and experience will be my investment in the future of Somalia.

As Somalis living in the Diaspora, I believe that we have a responsibility to rebuild our homeland. While we have been lucky to find safety, stability, and prosperity, there are new generations of Somalis who are growing up and being born into the ravages and trauma of war.

Unfortunately, our children's growth and development are being stunted and they are missing out on vital socialization experiences that will allow them to fulfill their destiny as the future leaders of a united Somalia.

Khadra

Somali Diaspora Youth and Student

QUESTS-MIDA UPDATES

There have been more than 50,000 visitors to the website since its launch in September '09. QUESTS-MIDA has advertised and closed 15 vacancies for positions in Somaliland and Puntland. Interviews are currently underway and 7 posts have already been filled by qualified Somalis from the Diaspora. Some vacancies have been re-advertised to find the most suitable candidate for specific positions. An area that is in high demand is to find Somali candidates who have real experience in Public Administration.

Interview Process

QUESTS-MIDA organizes a phone interview panel with short-listed candidates and a focal point from the receiving Institution, as well as the lead technical agency, UNDP's Somali Institutional Development Project (SIDP). Selection criteria is based on relevant education and relevant work experience.

All applications must be submitted online.

Re-advertised Posts

There are currently several re-advertised vacancies on the website. These vacancies are open to all qualified male and female Somali expatriates in the Diaspora. Vacancies can be accessed from the QUESTS-MIDA website at www.quests-mida.org.

In addition to QUESTS-MIDA, IOM is looking for a candidates for a number of technical positions across Somalia. Go to <http://nairobi.iom.int/MIDAAsomvacancies.htm>

MOST RECENT AND UPCOMING QUESTS-MIDA EVENTS in the Diaspora

QUESTS-MIDA Awareness Campaign and Assisted Voluntary Return with IOM

Date: Fri 23 July, 2010

Venue: BRASS Victoria Hall Knowsley Street Bolton BL1 2AS - Manchester

Details: This event is a joint effort organized by the International Organization for Migration IOM office in Manchester United Kingdom and BRASS which is an associate organization with International Organization for Migration (IOM). The goal is to raise awareness about QUESTS-MIDA activities and International Organization for Migration (IOM) United Kingdom programs in Assisted Voluntary Return (AVR). For more information please call 01204 397 152.

QUESTS-MIDA Meetings in the Netherlands

QUESTS-MIDA is making preparations to travel to the Netherlands at the end of June or in July to discuss the project with the Netherlands-based Somali Diaspora. For more information, please contact Saed at sguled@iom.int or +358-(0) 9-684 11523.