

# **Dry Land agricultural project in lidaan IDP Camp**

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**Prepared by Mothers First and the Magan Network Somaliland**

## **What is the problem you wish to address?**

Africa's urbanisation is rapidly expanding, and by 2050, it's expected to represent 92% of global urbanisation, with significant implications for displaced populations. The Listening Tents Project has identified the impact of urbanisation on the lidaan IDP community, which was compelled to relocate due to land tenure issues and urban development pressures.

The community comprising 524 households was resettled in July 2023, 18 km outside Hargesia, Somaliland. Mothers First, in collaboration with local partners, conducted a comprehensive needs assessment in September 2023, gathering both quantitative and qualitative data from 80% of the households, including over 480 interviews and 4 facilitated group discussions.

Our detailed report is accessible here:

<https://www.mothersfirstcharity.org/s/lidaan-IDP-Hargesia-Camp-report-February-2024.pdf>

Six durable solutions were identified, one of which is a dry land agricultural project. Mothers First has partnered with MAGAN Network to develop and implement these solutions. With 20 years of experience in India and 8 years within the United Nations policy development process, Mothers First brings substantial expertise. MAGAN Network offers grassroots-level knowledge across various approaches.

### **Key Personnel:**

Abdulkarim Mohamed Moustapha, a network member, will oversee the dry land agricultural project. He holds a Bachelor's Degree in Dryland Economics and Agroecosystems Management from the University of Nairobi.

### **Project Impact:**

The dry land agricultural project aims to tackle several community challenges, including unemployment, food insecurity, and malnutrition. It will serve as a model for future peri-urban relocations and will undergo rigorous evaluation as one of the six durable solutions.

### **Conclusion:**

The urbanisation challenges faced by displaced communities demand innovative solutions. The dry land agricultural project, led by Mothers First and MAGAN Network, promises sustainable outcomes for the lidaan IDP community and offers valuable insights for peri urban IDP Camp relocations.

## **What will you do?**

### **Project Overview:**

The proposed initiative, led by Abdoukarim Mohamed Moustapha, a member of the MAGAN Network, aims to introduce a dryland crop production system to address the challenges faced by the IIDAAN IDP Camp in Somaliland.

This project will not only enhance nutrition and livelihoods but also contribute to food security and economic empowerment within the camp.

#### Project Implementation:

Abdoukarim Mohamed Moustapha, a native of Somaliland and dryland agricultural specialist, will spearhead the project. With a Bachelor's Degree in Dryland Economics and Agroecosystems Management from the University of Nairobi, Abdoukarim brings valuable expertise to the initiative. He will be responsible for project implementation and evaluation.

#### Key Strategies:

The project will utilize two hectares of land provided by the Mayor of Hargeisa, Abdikarim Ahmed Mooge Liiaan, within the camp premises. Twenty households will receive training and support to cultivate crops on 20 by 20-meter plots. The initiative will focus on cultivating cash crops such as tomatoes, peppers, coriander, salad, and cabbages, selected for their nutritional value and market demand.

#### **Capacity Building:**

Comprehensive training programs will be conducted to empower the community, particularly women and youth, with sustainable farming practices, water management techniques, pest and disease control, and post-harvest handling. These efforts aim to enhance agricultural productivity, self-sufficiency, and sustainable land management practices within the camp.

#### **Market Linkages and Income Generation:**

The initiative will establish market linkages to sell surplus crops, engaging with local markets, cooperatives, and buyers. Value addition activities such as processing and packaging will be promoted to increase product value and marketability. These efforts will generate income for the IDP community, reducing dependency on external aid and creating sustainable livelihood opportunities.

#### **Community Engagement and Ownership:**

A community-based approach will ensure active participation and ownership of the project by camp residents. Farmer groups or cooperatives will be established to facilitate knowledge sharing, decision-making, and resource mobilization, fostering community cohesion and long-term resilience.

#### **Conclusion:**

The proposed dryland agricultural project offers a holistic solution to the challenges faced by the IIDAAN IDP Camp. Through sustainable farming practices, capacity building, market linkages, and community engagement, the initiative aims to improve nutrition, livelihoods, and food security while promoting economic empowerment and resilience within the camp population.

#### **What Results do you expect?**

The anticipated results of this initiative are multi-faceted and aligned with the identified needs and aspirations of the IIDAAN IDP community, aiming for sustainable solutions that empower residents and enhance their resilience.

**Template for Scalable Solutions:** This initiative forms part of a larger framework of six durable solutions identified by the community, including traditional midwife training, birthing tents, micro-business loans, and a workers' union. Collaborating with UN agencies, funders, and NGOs, our goal is to implement these solutions as a scalable template for other IDP camps facing relocation to peri-urban areas.

**Sustainable Income and Food Security:** The primary objectives of the dryland agricultural project are to generate sustainable and ecologically friendly income streams for households while increasing food availability. By cultivating a diverse range of nutritious cash crops, we aim to reduce the prevalence of malnutrition within the community, thereby enhancing food security and overall well-being.

#### **Community Ownership and Transition:**

Success will be measured by the willingness of families to transition to independent plots and the utilization of the training site by more families in subsequent years. Community engagement and participation are central to the project's durability, ensuring that residents play a critical role in its evaluation and long-term sustainability.  
Integration and Proof of Concept:

Given the high levels of unemployment and the potential for income generation offered by agricultural activities, we are confident in the success of this initiative. Demonstrating the viability of dryland agriculture as a durable solution for peri-urban IDP camps will provide proof of concept and support its integration into future relocation strategies.

**Key Outcomes:** Key outcomes include the cultivation of diverse, nutritious cash crops, establishing connections with local markets and buyers, and ultimately reducing malnutrition rates within the community.

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