



Voluntary and Dignified Planned Relocation in Somaliland

Climate Mobility Context

In Somalia, recurring waves of displacement over the last few decades have driven one of the fastest urbanization rates on the continent (Halakhe, AB & Miller, S, 2023). The capital of Somaliland, Hargeisa, has become host to multiple ethnic groups seeking economic opportunities in the city, displaced internally due to conflict and drought, and returning from neighboring East African countries. Among 17 camps for internally displaced people (IDPs) in Hargeisa, Daami – divided into Daami A and Daami B – is one of the most hazard-prone. Residents of Daami B live under the constant threat of Daami Dam flooding during rainy seasons, with several incidences where children drown in the dam and its floodwaters. In 2019, one mother and Daami resident reported in a local television interview:

“The dam causes many many problems. It blocks the road and therefore we don’t have a street. The water tanker cannot reach us. The worst thing about it is the health risks it is posing because of the trash. The water carries all this trash to our homes.”

Before the intervention, Daami B was home to approximately 335 households, 100 of whom were deemed “most vulnerable” through an area impact assessment carried out by Hargeisa Municipality in late 2021.

Objectives of the Approach

Planned relocation is usually undertaken as a measure of last resort for communities living in areas where risk reduction and adaptation in place are not enough to protect from the impacts of climate change, hazards, and disasters. Projects that have been funded through the Mayors Migration Council’s Global Cities Fund for Migrants and Refugees (GCF) that accommodate the planned relocation

Project Summary

Status: Implemented

Duration: 2023 - 2024

Budget: \$200,000 grant from GCF; \$145,000 co-funded by Hargeisa Municipality

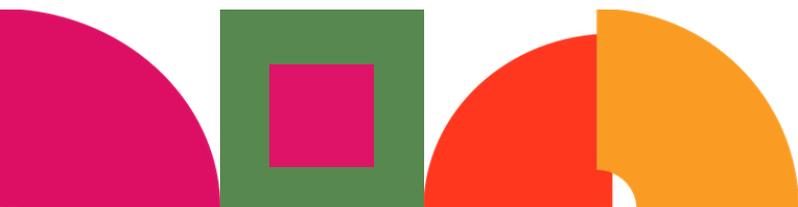
Partners: Municipality of Hargeisa, Mayors Migration Council

Funding: Donors to the Global Cities Fund for Migrants and Refugees' Inclusive Climate Action cohort include the IKEA Foundation and the Robert Bosch Stiftung GmbH

Strategic Partners of the GCF: UNHCR, IOM, UN-Habitat, C40 Cities, Metropolis, UCLG

of communities emphasize the necessity of approaching the entirety of planned relocation processes in a voluntary and dignified way. To date, these projects include sites of origin and destination in Beira, Mozambique and Hargeisa, Somaliland.

HARGEISA, SOMALIALAND





Approach

Hargeisa Municipality's approach to planning the voluntary and dignified relocation of households from Daami B broadly follows principles outlined in UNHCR, Brookings and Georgetown University's Guidance and Protecting People from Disasters and Environmental Change through Planned Relocation (UNHCR, Brookings & Georgetown University, 2015). Through Daami's Dignified Relocation and the GCF, Hargeisa Municipality resettled 100 of the highest risk households around Daami Dam to Abdi-bidar Village. The site was visited by representatives of Daami B camp and agreed upon through a rigorous negotiation process with the municipality which included an ongoing complaint mechanism and the rejection of an initial relocation site that was deemed too far from the city center.

All 100 households (638 individuals) that volunteered to relocate to Abdi-bidar Village were supported during and after the relocation through various means. While homes were primarily self-built by residents, Hargeisa Municipality provided moving trucks and construction support to

disassemble homes in Daami and rebuild them in Abdi-bidar. Each household was provided USD \$100 in direct cash support per month for the first eight months after relocation. Households were provided land ownership rights after six months of residency. A key element of the project included support towards livelihoods restoration.

30 young men were provided motorcycles (20) and waterdelivery tricycles (10) and trained to drive and deliver essential goods.

62 women were trained in financial literacy, opened bank accounts with Premier Bank and were offered zero-interest loans.

56 women and girls were offered seed funding (between \$240 and \$500 each) to start small businesses.

12 young people were trained to make coffee and pastries, 7 of whom were provided start-up grants to open pastry shops.





Impact to Date

Through Daami's Dignified Relocation, Hargeisa Municipality has moved 100 households away from Daami B camp – a highly flood prone area of the city that is informally settled – to safer neighborhoods. While the project initially set out to relocate only 100 households (who were all provided livelihoods support resources), during community awareness sessions, the municipality identified another 40 households in high-risk areas of Daami that were interested in moving and funded their relocation from its own budget.

One year after the project was completed, none of the households have moved back to the Daami neighborhood and all homes in the relocation neighborhood – Abdi-bidar – are occupied. While the new neighborhood is only around 8km from the city center, due to unfinished construction of the nearby roads and health clinic, some household members have found accommodation closer to the city center.

At the same time, Abdi-bidar has started to attract new residents and businesses, with approximately 35 additional families building homes in the area. As a result of these activities, the Municipality is not only preventing climate

displacement in the short term but also ensuring relocated families have the security of tenure, income-generating opportunities, and right to self-determination to succeed in their new homes in the long term.

Partners & Funding

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For More Information

Please visit [Daami's Dignified Relocation](#) project page or write to fund@mayorsmigrationcouncil.org for specific questions and further inquiry. Find the whole study here on AC.net: [Cities on the Move: Responding to Human Mobility in the Context of Climate Change \(Adaptation Community\)](#).



Imprint

Published by: Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH
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Bonn, 2026

Global Programme: Human Mobility in the Context of Climate Change II
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