

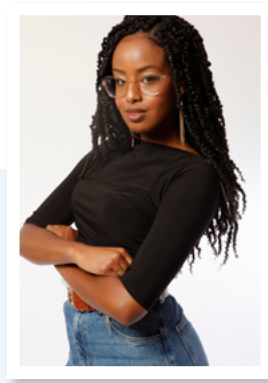
Samira Yusuf

Unlocking the Potential of the Young Somali Diaspora



Expertise: *Policy Advisor*

Country of Origin: *Somalia*



Expertise and passion come at all ages, as proven by Samira Yusuf, a young member of the Somali diaspora. Although she was born and raised in the Netherlands, she feels a strong connection to Somalia. She sees endless opportunities in her country of origin, especially for diaspora engagement.

“Diaspora engagement plays a crucial role in Africa, particularly in Somalia, as it holds the key to unlocking sustainable development. By actively involving diaspora members in trade, investments, research, and innovation, and tapping into their valuable expertise, Somalia can open doors to a world of possibilities. I have witnessed the tangible impact of diaspora engagement first-hand while walking the streets of Mogadishu. The city has seen the establishment of new restaurants, hotels, cafes, hospitals, and various other developments thanks to the

contributions of the diaspora. Their presence and efforts have brought about positive changes that are visible and beneficial to the community.”

For her CD4D assignment, Samira supported capacity building processes at the diaspora department of the Federal Ministry of Foreign Affairs. This included developing the department’s five-year strategy, writing project proposals, engaging with donors, and contributing to the preparation of the National Diaspora Policy. Working collaboratively with diaspora members, Samira assisted in bridging the gap between their needs and the department’s objectives. Within the scope of her assignment, she tackled

challenges and implemented projects to boost trade, attract investment, and promote research and innovation. The skills and knowledge she gained in the Netherlands proved to be very valuable in the Somali context.

Samira is happy to have contributed positively to her country of origin through her CD4D experience. “This experience not only strengthened my bond with Somalia but also solidified my belief in the tremendous potential of diaspora engagement. It was a transformative experience that I highly recommend for my fellow Somali diaspora family to experience if there is a next phase of CD4D. By leveraging the collective wisdom and talents of our diaspora community, we can unlock opportunities that will transform our homeland for the better.” ■



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