



# LEVERAGING MIGRATION FOR IMPROVED JOBS AND SERVICES ALONG ETHIOPIA'S BERBERA CORRIDOR

## **The Fostering Secondary City Cooperation to Leverage Migration for Improved Access to Work and Basic Services along Ethiopia's Berbera Corridor**

project is an innovative cross-border partnership between academia, all levels of governance (local, regional, and central), and the private sector.

It builds on the respective mandates and core competencies of relevant city stakeholders to propose a substantive set of activities with both short- and long-term potential for sustainable impact. The activities cover job matching, skills development, business incubation, engagement of the diaspora for local investment, and engagement of the local government for job creation and public services such as environment and sanitation.

The project includes cooperation with a dedicated women's empowerment organisation, which will drive gender-sensitive activities relevant to localities along the Berbera Corridor.

## **OVER HALF OF THE PROJECT'S BENEFICIARIES WILL BE WOMEN.**

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### **Implementing Partners:**

Jigjiga University (JJU), in partnership with Jigjiga City Administration and various regional government departments, including the Bureau of Women and Children Affairs, Hargeisa Cultural Institute, Jigjiga University Business Incubation

Centre, Rays Microfinance, and the Hankaal Institute.

### **Location:**

Berbera Corridor, Ethiopian Somali Region

### **Duration:**

April 2023 - March 2026



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Swiss Agency for Development  
and Cooperation SDC

**Cities Alliance**  
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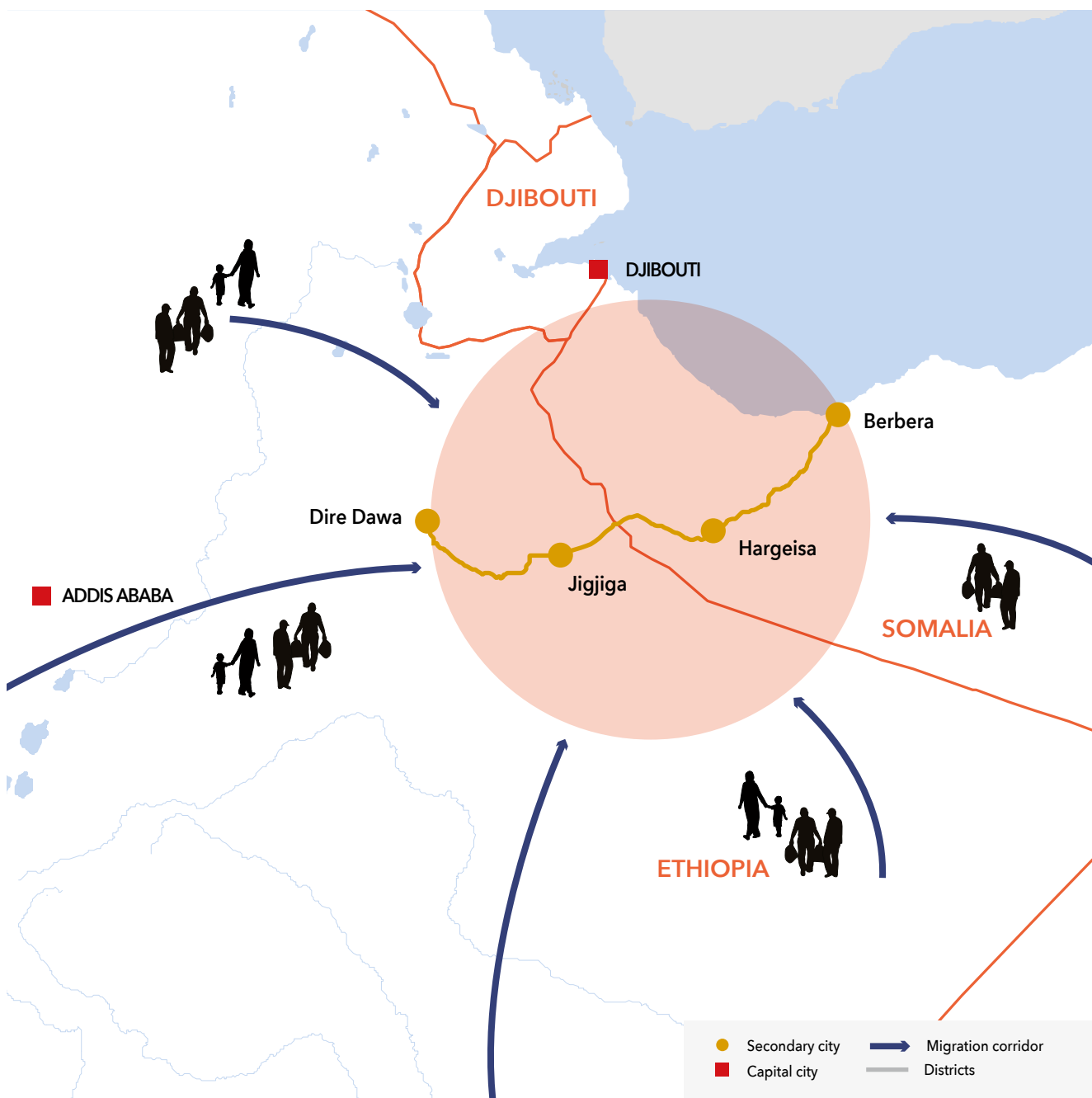
The Ethiopian Somali Region and its capital, Jigjiga City, have experienced significant economic growth thanks to the social and financial capital investments by the Somali diaspora and returnees. Somaliland and its capital, Hargeisa, have seen a diaspora-led economic boom as well.

Both areas are also experiencing significant migration influxes, often induced by climate change. These

rural-to-urban labour migrants, internally displaced people (IDPs), and refugees suffer from poverty and exclusion, with women and girls disproportionately affected. Thus, a key challenge for regional and local authorities is making economic growth more equitable, with more migrants and vulnerable host community members benefiting from increasing economic opportunities and services.

In recent years, government and international development banks have invested heavily in the region's infrastructure as part of the Berbera Corridor initiative, which connects landlocked Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, with the port city of Berbera, Somaliland. The Berbera Corridor is expected to become a major regional trade and logistics hub, with trade volumes expected to increase sixfold by 2050, according to the World Bank.

## Berbera Corridor



## ANTICIPATED RESULTS



This project builds on the Regional Diaspora Engagement Strategy completed in Jigjiga in 2021. It expands the city initiative beyond Jigjiga to the Berbera Corridor, creating cooperation among secondary cities for greater and inclusive access to work and

services for migrants and host communities. Activities focus on services and employment generation for all city residents, collaborative governance and management mechanisms, and pooling of resources.



### **Result 1: Improved labour market integration for migrants, displaced persons, and host communities.**

#### **Access to better work opportunities**

At least 4,000 migrants, forcibly displaced, and vulnerable host community persons will receive services that enable them to access new or better work opportunities in Jigjiga City and its surrounding migration corridors.

The project partners will provide business and entrepreneurship training for migrants, the forcibly displaced, and vulnerable host community youth. To ensure sustainability, the project leverages the Jigjiga University Career Centre's existing platforms and networks for job matching and career counselling. Business incubation centres will support start-ups and provide mentorship and administrative support, bridging an important gap in the nascent entrepreneurial ecosystem of the Somali Region.

Eventually, new collaboration with a micro-finance partner will make the business case for women-led enterprises and loan products, and digital services will ensure that migrants located in kebeles further away from the urban centre gain access to economic opportunities.

Up to 1,200 beneficiaries will experience new or better work opportunities as a result of the work-related services provided by the project.

#### **Multi-stakeholder dialogues**

The project will convene two local multi-stakeholder initiatives and dialogues (on remittances, impact investments and know-how by migrants and diasporas to their country of origin) that engage the private sector, government, and civil society.



### **Result 2: Improved gender-responsive, climate-resilient and sustainable provision of basic services for migrants, displaced persons, and host communities.**

#### **Access to basic services**

At least 30,000 migrants, forcibly displaced, and vulnerable host community persons will access basic municipal services due to project activities.

An important municipal service is providing market space for people living in Jigjiga and the surrounding areas, but there are not enough organised market spaces and wholesale centres. Most trade is conducted on the streets

and at retail prices. The project will establish a wholesale market, managed by the City Administration, that allows target beneficiaries to purchase and trade at significantly lower wholesale prices.

It will also tap into market opportunities at Jigjiga University (JJU). Target beneficiaries, specifically women micro-entrepreneurs, will gain access to business sheds that will function as a market for the university's 17,000 students. In collaboration with the JJU Mechanical Engineering Department, a sanitation project will pilot a biogas plant for a toilet at the wholesale market, an Ecosan toilet for compost production at the campus, and mobile toilet facilities for youth start-up initiatives targeting public health and environmental protection in public spaces.

#### **Participatory policy dialogues**

The project will convene four local initiatives and policy dialogues on inclusion and social cohesion, including durable solutions for forcibly displaced persons, that engage different actors (governments, private sector, civil society) in the Somali Region and Somaliland. Dialogues will explore the immense potential for cross-border collaboration through the Berbera Corridor, including learning opportunities between Somaliland's private sector-led development model and the

public sector-led development model of the Somali Region.



### Result 3: Persistent gender inequalities addressed in cities.

A gender analysis and theory of change will inform locally appropriate gender transformative action in the context of cities in the Berbera Corridor. Entrepreneurship training, financial products, and municipal services are all designed to take the local cultural context into account. The project emphasises women's empowerment and ensures that over half of all beneficiaries are women. It also focuses on the needs and opportunities of the corridor's growing youth population.



## THE RESILIENT SYSTEMS OF SECONDARY CITIES AND MIGRATION DYNAMICS PROGRAMME

This project is part of the Resilient Systems of Secondary Cities and Migration Dynamics programme supported by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC).

The programme supports initiatives designed by secondary city stakeholders to provide migrants, forcibly displaced people, and host communities with equal access to quality public services, labour market integration, and economic opportunities. It seeks to advance global thinking on how secondary cities in developing countries can manage and seize the opportunities arising from migration and displacement.

The programme operates in North Africa, the Horn of Africa, and Latin America and the Caribbean, working with systems of secondary cities in Guatemala, Ethiopia, Tunisia, Somalia, and Uganda that are experiencing substantive migration and forced displacement.

It facilitates regional collaboration on urban planning and advocacy and fosters local partnerships among diverse city stakeholders and national and international actors to implement approaches that are locally relevant and work for all residents.