

I.N.FORMA.L

Istruire **N**ormare **F**ormare **L**avorare

Newsletter N° 4
DECEMBER 2024

I.N.FORMA.L. - Educate, Regulate, Train, Work. From the informal to the formal economy for inclusive growth, peace and social dialogue in Somalia - AID 012590/03/0



The project aims to contribute to the creation of decent work for women and men, in the complex context of Somalia, a country emerging from decades of war, drought, floods and terrorism and moving towards a new period of economic and social redemption.

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Training and professional development to facilitate the transition of informal workers in the fishing, textile and retail/small trade sectors toward the formal economy

The first six months of 2024 have been crucial in defining and launching professional training programs for fishery, textile and retail/small trade informal workers. This essential training will facilitate the sustainable transition process of informal enterprises to the formal economy.

In these professional training and upskilling programs, 20 beneficiaries (including sector trainers and facilitators) were initially involved and trained, along with more than 130 young beneficiaries (at least 50% of whom were women).

While sector trainers and facilitators participated in a professional development course focused on assisting and supporting the formalization of micro and small informal enterprises, the training beneficiaries were divided into the three target sectors and received detailed sector-specific training.





The professional development course for sector trainers, involved through the collaboration with project counterparts such as the Somali Chamber of Commerce and the Ministry of Social Affairs, provided skills and knowledge on: participatory and inclusive learning methodologies; the local labor market; employment opportunities in the three target sectors; tools for managing formal enterprises and best practices for creating decent, inclusive, and socially protected work; workplace health and safety; women's empowerment and the reduction of gender discrimination.

The sector training for young beneficiaries focused more, both practically and theoretically, on the formalization programs for micro and small enterprises, sector opportunities, health and safety (general and sector-specific risks, occupational diseases, prevention measures, protection and the use of equipment), social protection practices/supplementary welfare systems and labor inclusion.

At the end of the sector training, 65 young beneficiaries have been selected based on different criteria (acquired skills, personal motivation, etc.) to be the protagonists of the pilot action that will lead in 2025 to test the sector programs that will facilitate their transition to the formal economy in the fishery, textile and retail/small trade sectors.

In June 2024, the first training sessions were realized, but due to internal security reasons in the country, the second part of the training will take place in 2025.

This program will equip them with technical skills, a start-up toolkit and transversal competences that will provide them with greater and new income-generating opportunities, increased awareness of their rights and active participation in the socio-economic development of the country, in addition to reducing the gap between the skills required and offered.

Staff project meetings and initiatives in Italy

As scheduled every six months, a staff project meeting has been organized.

In July 2024, we chose the national headquarters of CGIL as the venue. In Rome, we had the opportunity to monitor the actions carried out, share the future project plans, add knowledge about the Somali context and discuss possible actions to address the issues that the challenging Somali context entails.

The July meeting was also an opportunity to provide a public feedback on the activities carried out.

Omar Faruk Osman Nur, General Secretary of FESTU, was invited to participate as a speaker in the event 'Democracy and the Role of Trade Unions in Defending Work and the Rule of Law,' held in Bologna on July 5 at the Lumière Cinema.

The meeting, coordinated by Nadia Vorcelli, a journalist from the DIRE agency, featured a debate on multiple fronts regarding democracy and the rule of law, involving some protagonists from ongoing struggles taking place in various countries such as Turkey, South Korea, Italy, and, of course, Somalia.

Omar Faruk Osman also explained to the audience what the strongest link between democracy and the rule of law is for their country, namely the possibility of inclusive growth, peace, and social dialogue. In practice, the pillars of the ongoing project.



“Decent and Inclusive Work” Photo Competition

On September 30, 2024, participation in the **Decent and Inclusive Work photography competition** ended, an initiative promoted as part of the I.N.FORMA.L. AID 012590/03/0 project by Nexus Emilia Romagna ETS and its partners.

The competition, open to national and international participants, aimed to raise awareness and stimulate collective reflection on the concept of decent and inclusive work and its opposite, highlighting its many facets through photographs and texts. **What does decent and inclusive work mean?** This question was at the core of the initiative, which invited photographers to tell, through images, the challenges overcome, the opportunities created, and the stories behind every job. The photographs explored scenes of urban life, portraits, and stories of workers, intertwining labor rights, social aspects and professional dynamics with the aim of capturing a unique perspective on working conditions, emphasizing the universal value of decent and inclusive work that unites us all.

In less than a month, the competition received a wide participation: photographers, both amateur and professional, have submitted over 90 photographs, enriched with their reflections.



On Sunday, December 15, 2024, **the photography competition award ceremony** took place to celebrate the winners, participants, and works that best represented the theme of decent work (or its opposite).

The award ceremony, which was also followed remotely from Italy, was introduced by Abdulrazak Mohamed Ibrahim, coordinator of the I.N.FORMA.L. AID 012590/03/0 project, who welcomed the participants by presenting the project and its objectives, followed by tributes from Rita Tassoni and Fiorella Prodi on behalf of Nexus ER, and Annalisa Vandelli, who explained the process of selecting the submitted photographs and the criteria used to evaluate the works.

The awarding of the winners was concluded by Abdulrazak Mohamed Ibrahim, who stated that 'The I.N.FORMA.L. project is a demonstration of what can be achieved by working together, with a concrete focus on the future.' A total of 7 winning photographs were awarded, one for the Somali national section and 6 for the international section.

Somali national section 1st place: Marco Palombi



Sanaag Region, Somalia, 2014 - “Climate change and drought become a serious problem in rural areas. Rice and millet harvest is getting poorer every year.”

International section 1st place: Michele Lapini



State of Goa in India, January 2023 - “Bread making in Morjim. Activities are often done collectively for a job that is essential to the sustenance of the local community.”

International section 2nd place: Ibrahima Mbengue



Gambia 2023 - “I wanted to answer the call also with an image that tells the story of the fish smoking sector, exploring through my shots the fragile balance between the dignity of a traditional job and the heavy consequences it has on the health and safety of workers. The precarious working conditions, often ignored at an international level, raise a crucial question: how noble can a job be considered if it involves such serious risks for those who do it?”

International section 3rd place (tie): Emanuele Favalli



Marina di Ravenna, Italy, 2024 - "I wanted to represent the love that biologists put into saving these turtles regardless of their skin color, their creed and their sexual orientation... The most important thing that binds them is the LOVE they have for their work and for the nature they must safeguard!"

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International section 3rd place (tie): Luigi Curti



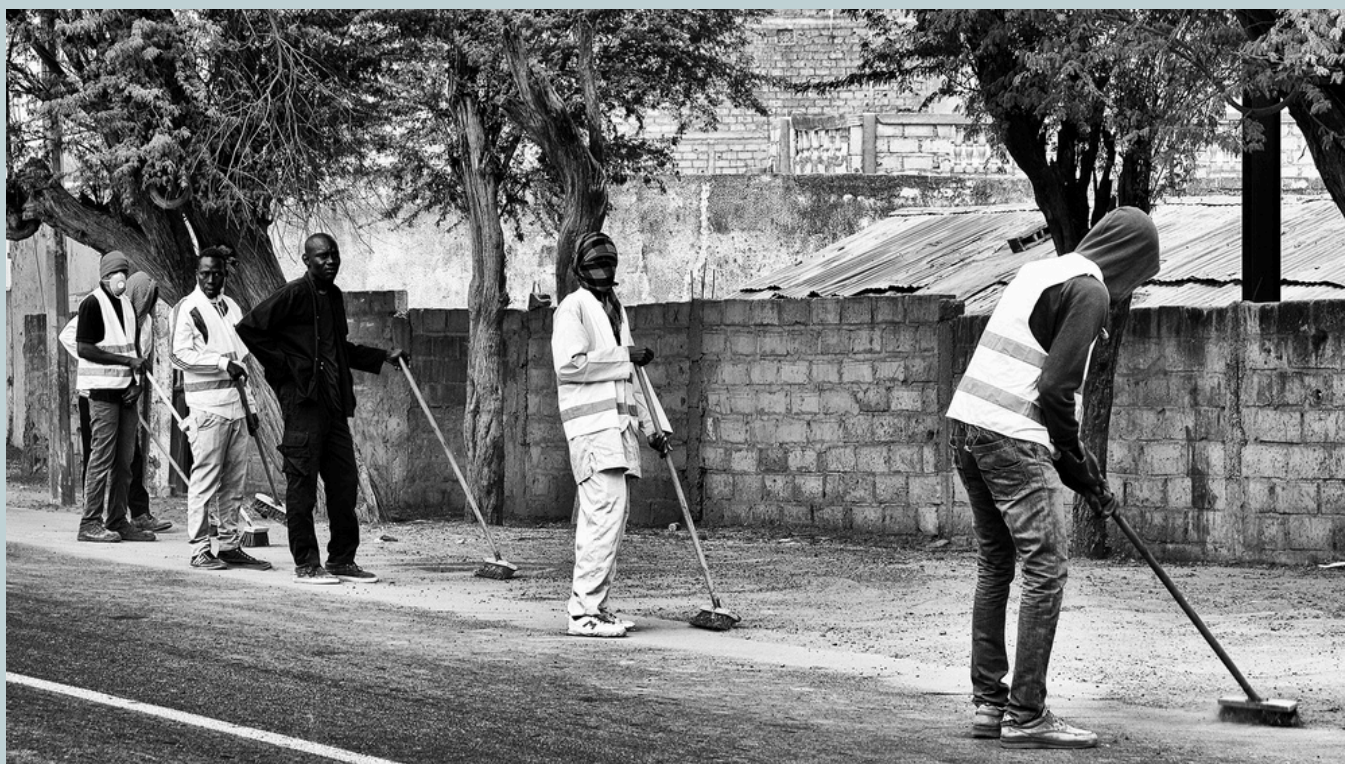
“Luzzi, Cosenza, Italy 2013”

International section 5th place : Michele Lapini



State of Goa in India, January 2023 - “Construction workers work in unsafe conditions at a construction site for a tourist resort on Morjim Beach.”

International section 6th place : Silvio Gordini



Senegal, 2022 - “The construction of infrastructures and new neighborhoods and urban improvement are always a means to fight unemployment and increase the income of peoples and countries, but also the social tool for the construction of a conscious and free human fabric.”

"Reportage 'In the Mogadishu Network' – by Marco Trovato

In 2024, the I.N.FORMA.L. project also collaborated on the creation of the reportage 'In the Mogadishu Network' written by **Marco Trovato**, editorial Director of Africa Rivista. The **reportage**, published in the January-February 2025 issue 1/2025 of Africa Rivista (www.africarivista.it), features images and testimonies from one of the many Somali realities, that of fishing. The reportage was created during Marco Trovato's mission in Mogadishu in October 2024 and focuses on the fishing sector in the Somali capital, an activity that, despite extreme working conditions, represents hope and a source of livelihood for thousands of people, which the I.N.FORMA.L. project aims to improve.



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The reportage offers a unique immersion into the daily reality of the fishermen of Mogadishu, a story that gives voice to the resilience of a community fighting for survival and a fairer future.

On Africa Rivista's social media pages, you can watch **videos documenting the journalistic reportage 'In the Mogadishu Network'**:

- the Facebook page: [video on Facebook](#)
- the YouTube channel: [video on You Tube](#)
- Instagram: [Instagram profile](#)

To read the full reportage, visit the website www.africarivista.it/nuovo-numero



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Previews

Shortly, the '**Decent and Inclusive Work 2025**' calendar will be printed and published, available in both print and digital formats.

The 'Decent and Inclusive Work 2025' calendar includes the winning photographs from the competition and the images submitted by each participant. Available in both English and Italian, it will mark the year 2025 with significant dates related to the history of work, rights, and social justice, with at least one image associated with each of these important days. The image-based stories received have sparked reflections on the theme of decent and inclusive work, which, through the calendar, will reach the entire population and inspire reflections on social issues, particularly related to the world of work.



Another important milestone of the I.N.FORMA.L. project in 2024 was the realization of the **'Survey on the Informal Economy in Somalia: In Search of Sustainable Change'** curated by Abdirisak Warsame, in collaboration with FESTU and CGIL that will be published in three versions: Italian, English, and Somali in the early months of 2025.

The research is a fundamental part of the strategy to transition the Somali economy from informality to formality by identifying and addressing the challenges faced by informal businesses, with the involvement of three key components: the government, workers, and employers. Through an overview of the Somali economy, the survey examined crucial sectors such as fishery, textiles, and small informal businesses to gather new insights and promote a deeper understanding of the country's informal economy.

This process has been crucial in highlighting the benefits of socially protected labor, defending workers' rights, and addressing the vulnerabilities of informal work.

The survey was also essential for developing a proposal for a National Action Plan, formulated by a Tripartite Committee made up of the most important Somali stakeholders: the Somali Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs (MOLSA), the Somali Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SCCI) and the Federation of Somali Trade Unions (FESTU).

The proposal will be detailed and aligned with national aspirations aimed at achieving a solid formal economy that can support inclusive growth, improve working conditions and adhere to the principles of social justice.

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SCCI - Somali Chamber of Commerce and Industry
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ITUC Africa - African Regional Organisation of the International Trade Union Confederation



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