

Sociala Missionen and Göteborgs-Initiativet are now cooperating in a project where we work with support to those Somalis who have received a rejection to their asylum application. The background to this work is presented below:

Somalia is one of the poorest countries in the world.

War and conflict have been ongoing for almost 20 years and strong hostilities between different groups are still present in country.

The reconstruction of the country is a slow process, international development aid is being hindered by conflicts and the fact that the country does not have a functioning government.

In Sweden we have approximately 20.000 Somalis who have left their country during the troublesome years – some –with a strong commitment to helping with the reconstruction of their old home country.

Today there are approximately 2000 Somali asylumseekers in Sweden. Many of those have received a decision of rejection on their asylum application.

Sociala Missionen and Göteborgs-Initiativet have engaged in Somali matters in many ways over time – through a broad net of contacts with Somalis in Sweden and through supporting reconstruction projects in Somalia.

Sociala Missionen and Göteborgs-Initiativet have been engaged in supporting asylum seekers for a long time. We will now work with a special support to the group of Somalis who have already received or risk receiving a rejection to their asylum application. This work is being executed in cooperation with the Migration Board - however we are working independently based on our identity as Non Governmental Organisations. We do not cooperate in any form of forced actions and we have no responsibility for the authority decisions being taken in the asylum cases.

The work we are entering into means:

- that we cooperate with the Somalis in order to safeguard their interests
- that if necessary we can look into individual asylum cases. We support that all asylum seekers get a fair review of their asylum case.
- that we find it important to give special attention to members of vulnerable groups, eg women, minorities and those individuals who have a background of traumatic experiences
- that together with asylum seekers and Somali organisations we will discuss proposals for programs for return that can facilitate and help the individual

We invite those who want to discuss the situation with us, or present special suggestions or ideas, to contact us directly at the addresses below

Göteborg and Stockholm in July 2005-08-30

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