

HOW SOMALIA IS CREATING JOBS FOR FORCIBLY DISPLACED PEOPLE THROUGH PRIVATE-SECTOR PARTNERSHIPS

In this edition of Partnerships in Practice, we spotlight BECO and the Banadir Technical Institute (BTI), long-term partners of Amahoro Coalition, alongside the inspiring work of Sadiq Sheikh, who collaborates with them to create opportunities for forcibly displaced people in Somalia. A former displaced person himself, Sadiq returned home determined to rebuild not only his own life, but also the

Through his work with BECO and BTI, he is helping remove barriers to employment and unlock market-based opportunities that enable young people to regain dignity, purpose, and self-belief through skills training and meaningful work.

The BTI story begins with a classic business challenge. BECO, Mogadishu's primary electricity company, faced a critical shortage of skilled technicians, a gap that forced it to look outside Somalia's borders for talent. Sadiq Sheikh, one of the founders, explains:

"We were driven by a simple truth: jobs without skills are unsustainable. Despite building a major electricity company, we lacked trained solar and electrical technicians and relied on costly foreign engineers while young people remained unemployed and local factories stood idle. Technical skills were undervalued and vulnerable groups, especially displaced youth and women, were left behind.

So we chose to act by training them. Today, many of our workers come from internally displaced (IDP) communities, families are supported, and industries are hiring local talent. What began as a necessity is now building hope, dignity, and opportunity."



The goal was clear and strategic: to build a direct pipeline of skilled, job-ready talent. This is the core of BTI's demand-driven model: they train for existing, guaranteed jobs. The results have been eye-opening.

Every BTI graduate in the electrical and solar energy program is guaranteed a position with BECO, earning a starting salary of \$200–\$350 a month, which is significantly higher compared to the monthly average income in Somalia.

This is not just training; it's a direct and sustainable pathway to employment and a powerful example of a public-private

partnership that delivers tangible business and social returns. [The success of the BTI-BECO partnership](#)



507

Trainees placed in jobs,
has created a ripple effect.

Recognizing the power of this model, the Benadir Water Association, a coalition of 56 water companies, has approached BTI to solve its own critical shortage of skilled plumbers. The institute is now expanding its curriculum to include water plumbing services, once again ensuring that its training programs are directly aligned with the urgent needs of the private sector.

KEY LESSONS

01

Training works best when it is demand-driven and tied to real jobs

02

Private-sector leadership can unlock both business performance and social impact

03

Scalable partnerships create system-level change



To learn more about this partnership, watch this video with Sadiq Sheikh, who reflects on how his work with BTI and BECO is shaping the future of work in Somalia.

← Click to watch

If you are a forward-looking business interested in partnering with Amahoro Coalition to create jobs and economic opportunities for displaced people and host communities across Africa, we invite you to connect with us.

Reach out at info@thecoalitionafrica.com or visit <https://amahorocoalition.com/> to start the conversation.

To stay informed and learn from what works, you can also [subscribe](#) to upcoming editions of Partnerships in Practice, where we share real-world examples, insights, and lessons from private-sector engagement across the continent.