

AMAL ABDULLAHI

Stakeholder & Community Engagement | Social Development | Protection & Operations

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PROFESSIONAL PROFILE

Cross-cultural programme and community engagement professional with 5+ years of current experience in a complex asylum reception environment, supported by earlier experience in neighbourhood-based social development, volunteer mobilisation, youth participation and cultural mediation. Experienced in stakeholder coordination, vulnerability and protection assessment, community engagement, host-community relations, operational administration, capacity management and trauma-informed practice. Works across public authorities, health and social services, civil society, volunteers and diverse communities. Particularly interested in transferring this background into stakeholder engagement, social performance, community relations, social impact and international development roles in East Africa.

CORE EXPERTISE

Stakeholder Engagement	Community & Host-Community Relations	Social Development	Protection & Safeguarding
Government & Cross-Sector Coordination	Community Mobilisation	Conflict-Sensitive Engagement	Programme & Operations Coordination
Capacity Building & Facilitation	Vulnerability Assessment & Referrals	Volunteer & Network Development	Cross-Cultural Communication

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Protection, Community Engagement & Operations Officer | Oct 2021 - Present

AsylSyd - Tønder Municipality, Denmark

Support residents in a high-capacity asylum accommodation facility hosting up to 520 people, combining protection, community engagement, stakeholder coordination and operational responsibilities.

- Assess vulnerability and protection needs, provide case support, and coordinate referrals for residents facing complex social, psychosocial and protection-related challenges, including potential trafficking and exploitation.
- Coordinate with municipalities, migration authorities, police, healthcare providers, social services and specialised partners to support coherent interventions and continuity of care.
- Build trust-based relationships with residents and develop participation, social cohesion, wellbeing and conflict-prevention initiatives.
- Maintain an active focus on host-community relations, connecting residents and local communities through volunteering, work placements, sports, associations and community-based activities.
- Contribute to trauma-informed practice and staff capacity-building while supporting safe, inclusive and non-discriminatory service delivery.
- Coordinate accommodation planning, placements, intake and capacity management; administer resident assistance and maintain accurate documentation, reporting and compliance records.
- Coordinate structured transitions for residents granted residence permits and handovers to municipal integration systems.

Network Officer - Temporary Assignment | 2021

Humanizer / Danish Red Cross, Denmark

- Supported community engagement and social inclusion initiatives in asylum and return-centre settings, strengthening participation, wellbeing and social connectedness.
- Built relationships among residents, volunteers and community actors and contributed to community-based approaches for vulnerable and socially isolated residents.

Activism & Mobilization Intern | 2019 - 2020

Amnesty International Denmark

- Contributed to strategic development and expansion of the national youth activist network, including growth from upper-secondary institutions into universities.
- Designed and facilitated workshops on leadership, volunteer engagement and sustainable network development; supported recruitment, retention and capacity-building of activists.
- Coordinated outreach, stakeholder engagement, campaign mobilisation and establishment of student networks across multiple universities.

Freelance Cultural Mediator & Interpreter | 2012 - 2014

Aarhus Tolkeservice, Denmark

- Provided Somali-Danish-English interpretation and intercultural mediation across social, educational, health-related and administrative settings.
- Facilitated communication between institutions, service providers and clients from diverse backgrounds while maintaining confidentiality, neutrality and professional ethics.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT & CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

Community Engagement - Area-Based Social Development | 2009 - 2014

Gullestrup, Herning, Denmark

Long-standing involvement in neighbourhood-based social development initiatives focused on participation, inclusion, youth voice and community cohesion.

- Worked within a neighbourhood social development programme as a football coach for Somali girls and supported recreational activities for Somali community mothers.

- Served for three years as Chair of Gullestrup Youth Council, a youth representative body embedded in the local social development plan, and collaborated with local associations on community events.
- Co-founded a Somali youth network promoting education, civic participation, social skills and leisure opportunities; helped develop a mentoring programme and partnerships with local associations.
- Served as volunteer coordinator and mentor in a local girls' club, with responsibility for activities, volunteer coordination and day-to-day operations.

Volunteer - Refugee & Family Support | 2015 - 2018

Danish Refugee Council, Aalborg

- Built relationships with newly arrived families, provided homework support, planned community events and communicated the organisation's work.

EDUCATION

MA, Culture, Communication and Globalization - Specialisation: International Migration and Ethnic Relations

Aalborg University, Denmark

BA, Language and International Studies (English)

Aalborg University, Denmark

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Management and Leadership Certificate | New Skills Academy | 2021

Leadership, team development, project management, negotiation and conflict resolution.

The Complete Child Protection and Safeguarding Diploma | New Skills Academy | 2021

Child protection, safeguarding, neglect and exploitation awareness, and positive handling.

Facilities Management Diploma | New Skills Academy | 2021

Operations, capacity and space planning, vendor management, health and safety, maintenance, cost control and business continuity.

Cognitive Behavioural Therapy (CBT) Diploma | New Skills Academy | 2020

Counselling skills, case formulation, CBT techniques, behavioural analysis, DBT and solution-focused approaches.

LANGUAGES

Danish - Native | English - Fluent | Somali - Fluent | German - Professional Working Proficiency | Spanish - Elementary | Turkish - Elementary

TARGET ROLES

Stakeholder Engagement Officer/Coordinator | Community Relations | Social Performance | Social Impact | Social Development | Programme Coordination | Safeguarding & Protection | Capacity Building | External/Community Affairs