



*SDC-JRP*

## **From Housewife to Entrepreneur: How the JRP Project Empowered Idil Abshir Abdille**

***CASE STUDY***

1/2/2025

## Executive Summary



Idil Abshir Abdille, a 38-year-old mother of eight from a vulnerable household lives in Galdogob district, faced significant challenges in providing for her family. As a housewife, she struggled to put food on the table and ensure her children's education. Through the JRP (Joint Resilience Project), Idil participated in a six-month tailoring training program, gaining both theoretical knowledge and practical skills. This training transformed her life, enabling her to open a small tailoring shop in her village. Today, Idil earns an average of **5\$perday (150\$ per month)**, which has significantly improved her family's standard of living. Her income now covers school fees for her children and ensures regular meals for the family. Idil's story is a testament to the power of skills training and economic empowerment in transforming lives.

In her own words:

*"Before the JRP project, I didn't know how to support my family. Life was very hard. But after the tailoring training, I opened my own shop. Now, I can feed my children, send them to school, and contribute to our household. This project has given me hope and a future."*

## Background

Idil Abshir Abdille is a 38-year-old mother of eight living in a Galdogob where economic opportunities are scarce. Like many women in her community, Idil was a housewife, relying entirely on her husband's irregular income to support their large family. With limited resources and no formal skills, she struggled to provide for her children's basic needs, including food and education. The family's vulnerability was further exacerbated by the lack of access to livelihood opportunities and training programs.

The JRP project, aimed at improving food security and livelihoods in vulnerable communities identified Idil as a beneficiary of its skills training program. Recognizing the potential of women like Idil to drive change, the project provided her with an opportunity to learn tailoring, a skill that could empower her to generate income and improve her family's well-being.

## **The Challenges**

Before the JRP intervention, Idil's life was marked by constant struggle. As a housewife with no income-generating skills, she relied entirely on her husband's meager earnings, which were insufficient to meet the family's needs. Feeding eight children and ensuring their education seemed like an impossible task. The family often faced food shortages, and the children's education was at risk due to the inability to pay school fees.

Idil's lack of skills and opportunities left her feeling helpless and dependent. She longed for a way to contribute to her family's income but had no access to training or resources. The family's vulnerability was a source of constant stress, and Idil worried about the future of her children. These challenges highlighted the urgent need for interventions that could empower women like Idil to become self-reliant and improve their families' livelihoods.

## **The Intervention**

The JRP project provided Idil with a six-month tailoring training program, combining theoretical knowledge and practical skills. The training covered all aspects of tailoring, from basic stitching to advanced techniques, enabling Idil to produce high-quality garments. In addition to technical skills, the program also included lessons on entrepreneurship, teaching Idil how to manage a small business, attract customers, and price her products competitively.

Upon completing the training, Idil received a small startup kit, including a sewing machine and basic tailoring materials, to help her establish her own business. With the support of the JRP project, she opened a small tailoring shop in her village, offering services to her community. This intervention not only equipped Idil with a valuable skill but also gave her the tools and confidence to become an entrepreneur.

## The Results

The impact of the JRP project on Idil's life has been transformative. Within months of opening her tailoring shop, Idil began earning an **average of 5\$perday, amounting to 150\$ per month**. This steady income has significantly improved her family's standard of living. For the first time, Idil can afford to send all her children to school, ensuring they receive an education and a brighter future.

The income from her shop also covers the family's daily needs, including regular meals and basic necessities. Idil's success has brought stability and hope to her household, reducing their vulnerability and improving their overall well-being. Additionally, her entrepreneurial journey has inspired other women in her village to seek skills training and explore income-generating opportunities.

## Conclusion and Lessons Learned

Idil Abshir Abdille's story demonstrates the transformative power of skills training and economic empowerment. The JRP project's intervention has not only improved Idil's life but also created a ripple effect of positive change in her community. Key lessons from this case study include:

1. **Skills Training as a Pathway to Empowerment:** Providing women with practical skills can unlock their potential and enable them to become self-reliant.
2. **Entrepreneurship for Economic Stability:** Teaching entrepreneurship alongside technical skills ensures that beneficiaries can sustain their livelihoods and grow their businesses.
3. **Women as Catalysts for Change:** Empowering women like Idil has a multiplier effect, benefiting their families and inspiring others in the community.
4. **Addressing Vulnerability Through Opportunity:** By providing access to training and resources, vulnerable households can break the cycle of poverty and build a more secure future.

Idil's journey from a struggling housewife to a successful entrepreneur is a powerful reminder of the impact that targeted interventions can have on individuals and communities. The JRP project has not only transformed Idil's life but also set an example for how skills training and economic empowerment can drive sustainable development