

'RAAD' is the Somali word for 'footprints'. ADRA Somalia iconizes its interventions in Somalia/Somaliland as footprints left on the people's hearts as reported in this monthly newsletter.

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ADRA Conducts Entrepreneurship Training to Women Groups in South Central Somalia

A Training on Entrepreneurship, Cookery, Kitchen Gardening and Nutrition was conducted by ADRA in Bay Region of South Central Somalia in early April 2009. The trainees were drawn from 50 women groups with established kitchen gardens and income generating activities in Qansahdere, Dinsor and Ufurow Districts of Bay Region.

On nutrition, the women were trained on nutritional aspects of vegetables, how to cook the vegetables and how to establish and manage kitchen gardens.

With regards to entrepreneurship, the women received training on how to effectively manage businesses.

Specifically, the women were taught how to start a business, how to market the business, how to buy and sell products, how to keep good records, reasons for business failure as well as business planning.

Moreover, the women were provided with simplified training manuals on Entrepreneurship, Cookery, Kitchen Gardening and Nutrition which they can refer to for guidance in future.

Cookery training is a vital element as the beneficiaries can now be able to supplement their normal diet of meat and rice with vegetables which are rich in nutrients thereby ensuring better health.



Above: Women being trained on good nutrition practices and (right) being trained on cookery

The ongoing Emergency Water and Livelihood Support Program (EWLSP 3) is funded by the United States Agency for International Development/Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance (USAID/OFDA) and implemented by ADRA Somalia. The main goal of the Program is to provide emergency relief and strengthen the resilience of communities to enhance economic recovery in Southern Somalia.



Solar PV Training Workshop Held in Puntland State of Somalia

Electric power provides a clean source of energy for poor people and an invaluable opportunity for improving access to social services such as health and education as well as increased economic productivity through creation of small business and value addition of local raw materials. However, almost 80% of people, especially in rural areas of Somaliland and Puntland have no access to electricity. Solar PV can provide affordable electricity to these rural populations since solar is readily available in abundance throughout Somalia. The abundant sunshine available in Somalia makes Solar PV a realistic alternative to costly extensions of generators. Sale of Solar PV systems can also create jobs for installers in rural areas as well as opportunities for urban and cottage industries.

In an effort to stimulate the use of Solar PV systems, ADRA Somalia organized a one week training workshop to selected technicians in Puntland from 5th—9th April 2009. The workshop was carried out at the Garowe Vocational Training Centre and consisted of both theoretical and practical lessons. Trainees were drawn from Bossaso, Galckayo, Sool and Garowe towns and were predominantly electrical technicians who were selected through an open interview process.

The workshop was conducted by Mr. Norman Chege, a Renewable Energy Consultant from Davies and Shirliff (Kenya) Limited) with vast experience in solar PVs. The Training covered solar PV design, installation, commissioning, operation and maintenance and was aimed at building the capacity of trainees to promote solar energy technology and entrepreneurship in Puntland. This effort would in effect increase energy security for homes and institutions.

The five day Workshop was very successful and managed to achieve its objectives. Puntland holds a huge opportunity for solar industry based on the fact that the country depends on diesel powered generators as its main source of power. The environmental impacts and running costs of these generators are huge and exploring alternative energy sources of energy is the way forward for the Country.

The Workshop was praised for its practicability as it yielded visible results that were not only applauded by the Trainees but also by the Director General of the Ministry of Public Works, Transport and Aviation.

The ongoing Somalia Energy and Livelihoods Project (SELP) is funded by the European Commission and its main objective is to contribute to overall poverty reduction in selected districts of Puntland and Somaliland. Specifically, the Project aims at increasing access to sustainable and reliable energy services by the rural populations in Puntland and Somaliland.



A Group Photo of the Trainees on Day 1 of the Workshop



Trainees Learn How to Install a Solar Panel

Success Story

Fatuma Flaunts Benefits Gained from ADRA's Interventions

Fatuma is a forty year old married woman and mother to ten children. She comes across as jovial and jolly and occasionally cuts a forlorn figure when she begins talking about her experiences prior to ADRA's interventions. "Since I got married over twenty two years ago, I have never had the chance to rest my weary limbs", she begins. "My husband Sayid has been ailing for quite some time now and as a result cannot be able to help out with family chores. My eldest daughters who could be helping me out are all married and I am only left with the young ones who can barely walk nor perform any tasks.

I usually wake up at 4:30am to sweep the compound and prepare breakfast for my family. I then proceed to the nearest water point which is almost eight kilometers away to fetch water. However, ADRA recently installed a water point close to my home and as a result I can now easily fetch water without having to cover long distances.

Previously after fetching water, I used to then proceed to the farm with my children where I would till the land for three hours after which I would then proceed back home to begin preparing lunch for my family. Preparing and cooking this meal used to take me around four hours since I first had to pound sorghum using traditional stone grinder for one hour and then grind the same for another two hours.

During supper I begin the same process again. I pound sorghum using the traditional stone for an hour and use a further two hours to grind it. This procedure is usually so tiring and saps the energy out of me totally.

I am an active member of Yakbarawe Women Group in Dinsor District and I was pleasantly surprised when earlier this month I attended one of our weekly meetings and heard that ADRA would be donating a sorghum grinding machine to our group. The elation and relief that came with this wonderful piece of news was so surreal, I mean, how did they know of the suffering that I and my fellow women used to undergo to grind our sorghum? This is a dream come true for me as now I will be able to save six hours daily since I will no longer need to pound and grind the sorghum like before. Using this free time, I now intend to establish several vegetable gardens which will provide me and my family with good nutritional supplements. I also intend to sell surplus vegetables as a way of earning some extra income.



Fatuma during the interview

Our village will now be completely different economically as more hours will be spent on farms leading to improved agricultural production and subsequently more cash flow.

'Long Live ADRA' she concludes with a satisfied grin.

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