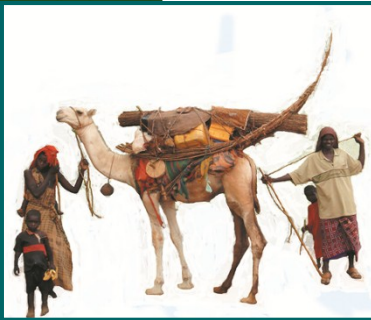




ADRA
ADVENTIST DEVELOPMENT
AND RELIEF AGENCY



'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 bi-monthly newsletter.

In this Issue...

- | | |
|--|---|
| Group Dynamics Trainings Held in Somaliland | 1 |
| Enhancing Health and Livelihood Activities in Southern Somalia | 2 |
| Education Project Injects New Sense of Optimism | 3 |



A bi-monthly newsletter of ADRA Somalia

April/May 2011

Group Dynamic Trainings Held in Somaliland

A number of training workshops were recently conducted to selected groups in Somaliland aimed at improving the livelihoods of the Agency's project beneficiaries. The trainings were part of activities that were to be carried out by the recently concluded Emergency Water and Livelihoods Support Programme (EWLSP 034) intervention that was implemented in rural Somaliland targeting the regions of Sahil, Togdheer, Awdal and Gebiley.

A total of four trainings were conducted in March 2011. The first training was on Water Management, Institutional Capacity Building and Conflict Mitigation while the second training focused on Hygiene Nutrition. The third and fourth trainings centered on Kitchen Gardening, Cookery, Nutrition, Food Processing and Preservation, Group Dynamics, Marketing and Entrepreneurial Skills for farmer and women groups in rural Somaliland.

The Water Management training was part of ADRA Somalia's strategy of handing over completed projects to the community and therefore sought to equip WASH Committees with basic knowledge, attitudes and skills for sustaining new and rehabilitated water systems.

Trainees were taught about Operation and Maintenance, Conflict Management of Water Points, Water Borne Disease Prevention and Community Disaster Management.

The Hygiene Nutrition Training targeted women from two farmers' groups in Awdal and Gebiley Regions and covered nutrition and diet, practical cookery skills, malnutrition identification using anthropometric tools as well as key nutrition messages and how to disseminate these messages to the Community. The nutrition training was implemented after a previous assessment conducted by ADRA Somalia had revealed rampant malnutrition cases in Awdal and Gebiley Regions.

Trainees who participated in the kitchen gardening, cookery, marketing and entrepreneurial skills training learnt how to establish and manage productive vegetable gardens in their communities, how to form strong sustainable farmer groups as well as how to start and manage viable Income Generating Activities using new technologies. Trainees were also taught how to prepare and cook a variety of nutritious vegetable dishes and how to use these regularly in their diet.

ADRA Somalia plans to conduct similar trainings throughout project regions in Somaliland and Puntland.



"Changing the World, one life at a time..."

Enhancing Health and Livelihood Activities in South Central Somalia

The Head of Bulogomor Village in Qansadhere District of South Central Somalia - Madey Jibow - is a chap full of relief and appreciation. He is delighted that his village has now adopted good sanitation and hygiene practices thereby greatly improving the health standards of members of his Community. ADRA Somalia has over the years been implementing WASH interventions in Bay and Bakol Regions of South Central Somalia and Bulogomor Village has been one of the many benefactors of these interventions.

"Before ADRA's intervention, our village did not have any latrines. All community members used to defecate in the bush or in open places and at the back of their homesteads. This situation was particularly very perilous for women and children and some cases of rape and harassment were reported especially at night. During the rainy season, the desecrated used to be carried by rain water to the two functional community water points at the village thereby contaminating water and subsequently leading to a high prevalence of water borne diseases", says a despondent Jibow, who seems to be trying hard to not recall the events of years gone by devoid of success. "Child mortality was very high during that time", he further adds, as a wince begins to form on his previously blissful visage.

Through the intervention, ADRA Somalia constructed six demonstration traditional toilets at the village, both in public places and in households. Only just recently, village members came together and constructed four additional latrines on their own and plan to construct a couple more before the onset of the long rains. ADRA also conducted a sanitation and clean-up campaign at the village in addition to training members of the village WASH Committee on PHAST and CHAST. Through the project, ADRA also rehabilitated two community shallow wells and constructed a *berkad* (underground water tank) at the village.

Jibow concludes his interview by thanking ADRA for the altruistic assistance provided to his Village. "We shall strive to continuously ensure that good sanitation and hygiene practices are always observed at Jibow Village", he wraps up and proceeds to meet with the WASH Committee members to discuss an upcoming clean-up exercise at the village.

In Qodqod Village of Dinsor District, Abdi Asha Mursal—the Chairlady of Godob Women Group—is currently teaching one member of the group on how to use a modern grain grinding mill. Godob Women Group was one of several beneficiaries of income generating machines that were donated by ADRA to

selected Women Groups and were aimed at empowering women to run small scale businesses through diversified agricultural based activities. Asha observes that the mill has greatly assisted members of the group with regards to income generation, and it is also "very easy to use and saves plenty of time". According to her, the mill has also helped reduce the burden of women who no longer have to use the traditional grinding mill that is quite cumbersome, energy sapping and time consuming. "On behalf of Qodqod Women Group, we thank ADRA for your immense assistance", she concludes.

The Emergency Water and Livelihoods Support Programme (EWLSP 3) was implemented in Bay and Bakol Regions of South Central Somalia. The intervention was funded by USAID OFDA and aimed at providing emergency relief and strengthening the resilience of communities to enhance economic recovery in Southern Somalia.



Basic Education Project Injects New Sense of Optimism

A pencil is all he wanted to use one day. He did not know when that would ever come to pass but he still kept hope alive and knew that one day he would learn how to read and write like 'all other adults of his age'. Ali Jamah Farrah is currently a learner at one of the Adult Learning Centres (ALC's) being supported by the ADRA Somalia led Expanded Participation in Basic Education (EPIBE) Project being implemented in Somaliland and Puntland.

To Ali, who lost his right arm to a gunshot earlier in his childhood, the recent introduction of adult classes in his home village could not have come at a better time. As he narrates his feelings, expectations as well as prior challenges of leading a life with no education, one easily notices his innate desire to succeed; the resolute and gritty fifty four year old father of five was extraordinarily desperate to go to school! "This is my first opportunity to get education and I will work hard so that I succeed," says a perceptibly gregarious Ali who is kind enough to illustrate to us that he can now be able to tell the time on his recently acquired wrist watch. "It is time for me to go and prepare for my next class", he says and hurriedly proceeds to class where he sits at his preferred spot – right next to the tutor. "My teacher has grown to like me because I am never late for class nor have I ever been absent and I always participate actively in discussions", he concludes.

Prior to ADRA's intervention, Harar Adult Learning Centre in Ainabo District of rural Somaliland was in a very decrepit state with little or no facilities. The ceiling of the classroom had long collapsed and the concrete floor was no more, its place taken over by large fissure patches occasioned by neglect of the classroom. The Centre now boasts of a newly rehabilitated classroom complete with new desks, ceiling and floor.

Moreover, ADRA has also provided stationery to the centre which has recently seen an increase in the number of adult learners.

Moving further East to El Afwein District, one meets the affable Headmaster of Wadaamagoo Primary School Mr. Abdirizack Abdi who is just from chairing a Community Education Committee (CEC) Meeting at the School. "We are planning on the new classrooms commissioning ceremony", explains Abdi.

The School has recently benefitted from the rehabilitation of twin classroom blocks as well as new desks, stationery and games equipment courtesy of the EPIBE Project. At first glance, the newly rehabilitated classrooms give an impression of stability and tranquillity at the School although this is quite a different sight to the one that greeted the ADRA Somalia assessment team when they visited the school a couple of months ago. The classes were completely run down with doors and windows being virtually non-existent. One of the classroom corners was cluttered with piles of damaged desks and chairs while the second classroom was full of broken wooden windows and doors. The floor was an eyesore! In addition, the classrooms did not have ceilings and what was particularly disheartening was the fact that one of the classes had a roof that was literally waiting to cave-in as soon as the rainy season began. Thankfully, all this is in the past now, thanks to the EPIBE Project.

A shimmering trophy stands out in Mr. Abdi's recently furnished office. "Our School won this trophy during a recently concluded inter school debate competition", he smugly proclaims, "And we shall defend it next year!" He affirms. The inter school debates are another component of the EPIBE Project.



Left: Waadamaagoo Primary School before rehabilitation and (right) the twin classrooms after rehabilitation



Left: Harar Adult Learning Centre before rehabilitation and (right) the classrooms after rehabilitation



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