



A monthly newsletter of ADRA Somalia

August 2009

ADRA Conducts Leadership Training in Hiran Region

'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.

ADRA Somalia recently held a 4 day Training Workshop on Leadership, Water Management and Conflict Mitigation to selected Trainees from Hiran Region of South Central Somalia.

Trainees were drawn from Village Elders, WASH Chairpersons and Members, Chiefs and Village Health Promoters from the region.

The Workshop provided the Trainees with an ideal opportunity to improve their understanding of good and bad hygiene practices, improve their leadership, mitigation and conflict analysis skills as well as identify common conflict patterns in water and community based mitigation skills.

ADRA Somalia will continue to conduct similar Training Workshops in the region.

ADRA Somalia has over the years initiated several water and sanitation projects aimed at increasing access to clean water and sanitation facilities to the people of Somalia and strives to ensure that beneficiaries of these projects are empowered to successfully manage the projects when these are finally handed down to them.

The Workshop addressed issues ranging from water management, water hygiene, gender awareness, conflict mitigation and village water resources management planning.



A Group Photo of the Trainees

The ongoing Hiran-Bay Emergency Water and Sanitation Assistance (HEWASA) Project has the principle objective of assisting victims of continuing insecurity and climatic hazards in South Central Somalia specifically by increasing access to sustainable safe water and improved sanitation and hygiene conditions. The Project is funded by the European Commission Humanitarian Office (ECHO) through ADRA Germany with ADRA Somalia as an implementer.



Contents:

Editorial	1
ADRA Conducts Leadership Training in Hiran Region	1
Empowering Women Groups to Participate in IGA Activities	2
ADRA Somalia Staff Visit ADRA Yemen	2
Of Kitchen Gardening and Improved Nutrition	3

Editorial

"When you educate a woman, you have educated a Nation" goes a common Somali proverb. This month's newsletter looks at ADRA Somalia Projects which have empowered Somali women and helped them to improve their social and economic well being in society.

Enjoy the reading.

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

Empowering Women Groups to Participate in I.G.A Initiatives

Waranyay Women Group members from Waranyay Village in Tieglow District of South Central Somalia are recent beneficiaries of ADRA Somalia's intervention that is aimed towards assisting women set up and sustain viable income generating activities.

Based on a needs assessment survey previously carried out by ADRA, it was established that women spent too many hours grinding sorghum since they used the traditional stone grinder which is quite tiresome, cumbersome and time consuming. This subsequently meant that there was not enough time to perform other chores such as cooking, cleaning etc as well as participate in activities that would lead to increased income for one's family. Waranay Women Group was therefore a beneficiary of a Sorghum Mill which the Group would use for income generating activities as well as for grinding sorghum for own use.

During a recent interview with ADRA field based staff, one of the beneficiaries Feeyla Hassan observed: "The mill has greatly reduced our workload because it grinds sorghum in seconds, it has reduced our burden and made it easy for us to perform household chores on time thereby freeing up time which we now use to carry out income generating activities that goes a long way in improving our living standards and those of our families."

The Mill has been a great success as over 95% of women in

Waranay Village are using its services. In addition, women from neighboring villages are also using the Mill constantly.

According to Feeyla, the Group is now planning to venture into other businesses using the profits accrued from the Sorghum Mill. "Thank you ADRA for your immense support", she concludes.



Feeyla Hassan and fellow women group members stand next to the Sorghum Mill during its presentation

ADRA Somalia Staff Visit ADRA Yemen

Two ADRA Somalia Staff—Minyu Mugambi, Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation Manager and Jama Farrah Muse, Education Project Officer recently visited ADRA Yemen as part of an exchange programme that the two Offices have been cultivating. The visit followed that of two ADRA Yemen staff—Khaled Mohamed and Mohamed Othman—who had visited ADRA Somalia in late 2008 and got a chance to travel to various field Projects and Offices.

Minyu and Muse got the chance to participate in ADRA Yemen's Strategic Planning Meeting as well as visit several Projects being implemented by the Office.



Success Story

Of Kitchen Gardening and Improved Nutrition

The general situation in Somalia continues to be of serious concern as poverty and food insecurity continue to affect vulnerable groups such as the internally displaced, nomadic communities and rural/urban populations. The dietary energy supply is inefficient to meet the population's energy requirement and the food available is basically meat, milk and cereals. Supply of fruits and vegetables is low hence impacting on nutritional value of foods that are eaten.

Malnutrition is a chronic problem in Somalia and appears in acute form in areas of drought, flood or localized conflict. Lack of availability and accessibility to food (primarily due to successive drought and conflicts), quality of diet, infant feeding practices and poor home management practices (such as keeping food in safe, sterile conditions, proper storage of water etc) contribute to the poor nutritional status of children.

Through the EWLSP Project, ADRA has been keen to improve nutritional status of Somalis by supporting women groups to set up kitchen gardens where they are taught how to grow different types of green vegetables and fruits.



One of the beneficiaries of the Kitchen Gardening initiative—Lul Isaaq—aptly summarizes the success of the activity when she says: “I am elated to have learnt the importance of vegetables for good nutrition and for economic gain. In addition to adding me income, my health and that of my family has improved as a result of better nutrition. Thank you ADRA for introducing me to kitchen gardening”.



The 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.



DISCLAIMER

Information contained in this newsletter reflects the views of ADRA Somalia and does not necessarily express the views of USAID/OFDA, ECHO or any other of ADRA Somalia's donors or partners. Should clarification on any of the articles herein contained be required, please contact ADRA Somalia on pr@adrasom.org

The mission of this monthly newsletter is to inform and motivate all Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) global offices, staff and partners. For inclusion in the newsletter's mailing list or to have your email changed, please contact the Editor.