



*A monthly newsletter of ADRA Somalia*

**December 2009**

'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.

## Energy Trade Fairs Held in Somaliland and Puntland

Energy use in Somaliland and Puntland is considered very low by world standards and the energy scenario of both Countries is characterized by high dependence on biomass based fuels i.e. charcoal and firewood. It is against this backdrop that ADRA—through partnerships with local NGOs—recently organised energy mini trade fairs in four major towns of Puntland and Somaliland to create awareness on environmental conservation through the use of improved biomass initiatives.

The central theme of the mini-trade fairs was 'Addressing Environmental Degradation through Improved Biomass Technologies' and was aimed at marketing and promoting improved cook stoves and create awareness on their benefits among local communities of Somaliland and Puntland. By working with local NGO's to organize the four fairs, ADRA intended to build their capacity to be able to organize similar events on their own in future.

A major trade fair will be held in 2010 showcasing different energy technologies that can be adopted by the people of Somaliland and Puntland.

## Editorial

Welcome to the last issue of 'RAAD' for the year 2009. We thank God for being with us since the turn of the year and guiding us through successful implementation of project activities despite the insecurity situation in large parts of Somalia.

This month's issue contains an interview between ADRA and Lul Warsame, a beneficiary of an ongoing intervention on Adult Literacy. Also contained in this issue is a success story of how a recently concluded WASH Project in Hiran Region has benefitted members of a local community. A Child Rights Campaign event held in Puntland in November is also reported herein.

Enjoy the reading.

*Muthamia*

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*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.*



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



## Success Story

### Never too Late to Learn

Talking to Lul Dahir Warsame, one cannot help but admire the immense determination that lies beneath her quiet and reserved demeanor. At fifty one (51) years of age, Lul – a married woman with three daughters – is one beneficiary of ADRA Somalia's Adult Literacy intervention, funded by EU and implemented in partnership with MOE, Puntland in Mudug and Nugaal regions. According to her, learning basic literacy and numeracy skills despite her advanced age was the greatest gift that she could ever ask for. Lul is a businesswoman based in Jalam Village – a village located between Garowe and Galkayo Towns of Puntland State of Somalia. She is a milk vendor and her daily task involves buying the milk from major vendors in Garowe Town and subsequently selling it in smaller jerricans to clients located in Jalam. Prior to ADRA's intervention, Lul explains that she used to have major difficulties in labeling the different jerricans which were meant for different clients. "Since I did not know how to read or write, I used to mark the jerricans with different colored marker pens to try and explain which jerrican is meant for which client. Needless to say, the confusion that used to reign as a result of this was immense and as a result I kept on losing valuable clients because of my illiteracy", she adds with a sad and forlorn expression on her erstwhile beaming face. And to add to her misery, she could not be able to read the currency notes that she used to receive from her clients and as a result was unable to know whether she was making a profit or not. "I was just doing businesses for the sake of it without necessarily knowing what to expect in future", she adds.

According to Lul, this was the least of her problems. "I was unable to assess the progress made by my daughters in school because of my illiteracy. In addition, I could not be able to understand circulars sent by the school's head to parents and I also could not be able to comprehend the school calendar let alone tell the time."

Lul's husband works in Bossaso – a town located over 550kms from Jalam - and comes to visit his family once every three months. Since both he and Lul do not own cellphones, he constantly communicates through letters. "I used to ask my

daughters to translate the contents of the letters for me as well as to write for me replies for dispatch to their father, a very tasking activity for them." She observes. "But now everything has changed since I began attending the Adult Literacy classes that have been introduced by ADRA. I can now be able to communicate with my husband and my clients. My milk business has as a result been growing in leaps and bounds since I can now be able to comprehend basic numeracy skills and operate a simple cash book. ", she quips. Lul recently bought herself a new watch which she proudly wears on her left wrist. "Look, I can even be able to tell the time as well as the date!", she excitedly adds.

"Thank you ADRA for introducing me to Adult Literacy classes, may your good deeds long continue to touch others", she concludes.

*Lul Warsame is a beneficiary of the ongoing 'Support to Integrated Basic Education Services (SIBES)' Project that is funded by the European Union and is being implemented by a consortium between Save the Children UK, Save the Children Denmark and ADRA Somalia. Its main aim is to contribute to improved well being of Somali children and adults through improving access to basic education.*



*An adult numeracy class in progress. The SIBES Project is targeting around 5,000 adults by 2010*



## Using Drama to Raise Awareness on Child Rights

"Tell me and I will forget, show me and I will remember, involve me and I will understand," goes a common Somali proverb. ADRA recently put this proverb into good practice by using drama to raise awareness on the rights of children at Darwish Primary School located in Garowe District (Nugal Region) of Puntland State of Somalia.

The Children's Act of 2001 lists several Child Rights including Right to Life, Right to Education, Right to Play and Right to Health among other Rights. ADRA – through the ongoing Support to Integrated Basic Education Services (SIBES) Project – and in collaboration with the Puntland Ministry of Education have embarked on campaigns aimed at raising awareness on these Rights. The campaigns are targeting parents and other members of the community and are majorly using drama as a form of communicating the all important message – respecting Child Rights. The Event at Darwish Primary School was attended by parents and community members and they were kept entertained by poems, songs, drama and choral verses containing messages on Child Rights.

ADRA plans to hold similar awareness campaigns in several other schools in Mudug and Nugal Regions of Puntland.



## Touching Lives in Hiran Region through WATSAN Activities

The impact of a recently concluded WATSAN Project that ADRA was implementing in Hiran region of South Central Somalia couldn't have been captured any better by Luul, one of many beneficiaries of the intervention. "Lebow village is now transformed by the intervention", she quips. "The sanitation of the area has greatly improved because of the construction of latrines and garbage pits as well as regular clean-up campaigns in the area", she adds.

Targeting 80,000 beneficiaries in the Districts of Qansadhere, Ufurow and Dinsor in Bay Region and Beletweyne, Buloburte and Mataban in Hiran Region, the intervention successfully carried out rehabilitation of water points, water tankering for drought emergency response, promotion of environmental sanitation and construction of sanitation enabling facilities as well as distribution of non food items to internally displaced persons.



*The recently concluded Hiran-Bay Emergency Water and Sanitation Assistance (HEWASA) Project had the main 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 was funded by the European Commission Humanitarian Office (ECHO) through ADRA Germany with ADRA Somalia as an implementer.*

## 2009 Pictorial



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### DISCLAIMER:

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