

February 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.

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Providing Assistance to Displacement Affected Primary Schools

Renewed conflict in South Central Somalia over the past one year has led to displacement of people in Hiran Region with the worst affected areas being Beletwyne and Bullo Burde Districts. This displacement has led to an increase in the number of internally displaced persons of which school going children form a sizeable component.

School going children have also been affected by a severe drought which has negatively affected the continuation of school education especially at village level. Moreover, insufficient capacity building for education authorities, head teachers and teachers in the region as well as limited presence of agencies involved in education in the region and limited assistance from the present ones have all had negative effects on education advancement in Somalia.

It is against this backdrop that ADRA Somalia, with support from UN OCHA, is currently implementing a Project in Hiran Region with the aim of ensuring that vulnerable children get access to education.



Children at a School in Beletwyne District

The Project, dubbed 'Intervention in Displacement Affected Primary Schools (IDPS)' hopes to promote community hygiene and sanitation standards in schools through construction of toilets and rehabilitation of school water systems,

provide school-going children with at least one meal a day in order to sustain them in school and improve the capacity of schools to cope with additional pupils through provision of stationery and other learning materials.

The main beneficiaries of the Project are school-going children both for the host communities and IDPs, parents as adult learners and Community Education Committees (CECs) reporting high enrollment of IDPs within the target villages.

Editor's Note

A journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step. Projects implemented by ADRA Somalia have all begun with single steps but have eventually gone on to touch the lives of thousands of Somali nationals. The greatest gift that one can give to the people of Somalia is Hope and ADRA Somalia strives to make Hope possible through its Projects.

This month's issue of 'RAAD' profiles a Project dubbed 'Interventions in Displacement Affected Primary Schools (IDPS)' that is currently being implemented by ADRA in Hiran Region of South Central Somalia. This issue also contains articles on a number of missions and trainings that ADRA Staff have participated in during the month.

A success story of a Project that ADRA carried out in the recent past on installing solar photovoltaics in health centers in rural Somaliland is also contained herein.

Enjoy the reading.

Muthamia

ADRA Somalia Programs Director Attends Planning Meeting at ADRA International

In late January 2009, Ms. Hannah Ndungu - ADRA Somalia Programs Director – visited the ADRA International Offices in Washington D.C. to participate in an Emergency Management Technical Working Group Meeting. The main aim of the meeting was to review policies and protocols of the Emergency Management Plan of ADRA International.

ADRA Somalia looks forward to continued collaboration and cooperation with ADRA International.



Hannah with Tayo Oyedemi, the Director of Programs, Planning & Emergency Management at ADRA Afro and (right) with Sasha Ross, the Technical Assistant for the Emergency Management Bureau of ADRA International

During the trip, Hannah also participated in a series of InterAction Meetings as well as got the chance to meet with several key staff of ADRA International.

ADRA Somalia Finance Director Attends Planning Workshop at ADRA Norway

In mid January 2009, Mr. Dominic Mwendwa - ADRA Somalia's Finance Director - visited the ADRA Norway Offices in Oslo to participate in a Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation Workshop as well as engage in a series of meetings to discuss the way forward on one of ADRA Somalia's WATSAN Projects that was coming to a close.

During the workshop, Dominic got the chance to learn more about ADRA Norway's Planning Frameworks including Logical Framework Approach, Outcome Mapping and Appre-



Dominic at the ADRA Norway Offices in Oslo

Gender Empowerment issues as well as Peace and Conflict Sensitivity issues.

Dominic greatly appreciated the opportunity to be involved in ADRA Norway's planning workshop and observed that the skills and knowledge acquired would be invaluable in ADRA Somalia's planning activities. He also acknowledged the ongoing partnership in capacity development between the two Agencies.

ciative Inquiry Approach. He was also introduced to Evaluation Methods and

ADRA Somalia looks forward to a continued cordial working relationship with ADRA Norway.

Success Story: ADRA Powers Up Health Centres in Rural Somaliland

Quality health centres constitute a vital component of essential services required in rural Somaliland. The presence of electricity in these health centres goes a long way in ensuring that basic and essential services can be provided to patients and medicines can be refrigerated. In addition, communication equipment can be used regularly thus improving management, distribution of information and logistics. However, the availability of electricity to support these health centers is less than adequate in the Country. However, Somaliland is blessed with abundant solar energy resources and though this resource stands to provide reliable electricity, it is largely untapped.

Prior to ADRA Somalia's intervention, selected health centres in rural Somaliland were not connected to any form of electricity and thus could not operate at night and could not keep essential medicines and vaccines that required constant refrigeration. Some maternal and child health care clinics used

to operate on expensive kerosene to run their refrigeration equipment and as a result, most professional health staff preferred to be posted in health centers that had access to electricity.

In addressing this situation, ADRA Somalia—with support from ADRA International—installed solar photovoltaics in selected health centres in rural Somalia including Salahley MCH, Bali Abane MCH, Mohamed Moge MCH, Sheik Noor MCH and Arapsiyo MCH.

Successes of the Project

These solar panels are now providing power for various end uses and the electricity produced offers much better lighting compared to kerosene which was being used previously. Electricity lighting has greatly improved emergency treatment, birthing, maternity care, surgery, administrative tasks and other related medical functions. For example, before installation of the panels, only 4 to 5 mothers delivered their children at Sheik Noor MCH. After installation, the centre now delivers 7 to 10 mothers at night.

Outdoor lighting has also made the rural health clinics more accessible at night. It is estimated that around 3,500 households served by the Clinics benefitted from this initiative.

Salahley MCH now has a reliable two-way regional communication via VHF radio with electricity being provided by the 160Wp PV module that was installed. Radio and radio telephone communications have greatly improved health care services at the rural health clinic. Emergency medical treatment has also been greatly facilitated with reliable communications to other health clinics and facilities in the region.

ADRA hopes to continue promoting renewable energy in Somalia through trade fairs, trainings and other related awareness events.

"The installation of solar provides us with enough light and power for the radio and I can catch up with news here. Patients too are served at night".



Technicians install solar panels at Bali Abane MCH in rural Somaliland



A nurse stands next to refrigerated medicines and vaccines



Radio and radio telephone communication powered by solar PV at Salahley MCH

ADRA Staff Participate in Emergency Preparedness Training

Four ADRA Somalia staff in late January 2009 got the opportunity to participate in a Hostile Environment Individual Safety Training (HEIST) Program organized by NGO Safety Preparedness and Support (SPAS).

The main aim of the training was to provide basic life skills and procedures that may help participants to stay safe and also save the lives of others in the event of an emergency. Participants of the training were drawn from various organizations working in Somalia.

A range of skills were taught during the one week training including incident management, personal security, emergency first aid, safer movements, basic survival and team problem solving skills.

A similar training will be held in March 2009 in Hargeisa, Somaliland and will be attended by selected ADRA Somalia National staff.



Participants of the HEIST Training Pose for a Group Photo after Completing the Course

Let us touch the dying, the poor, the lonely and the unwanted according to the graces we have received and let us not be ashamed or slow to do the humble work.

Mother Teresa.

Vacancy

Energy Technical Expert

Applications are hereby invited from suitable candidates to fill the vacant position stated above for the ongoing Somalia Energy and Livelihoods (SELP) Project. For more information about the position, please visit:

<http://adrasom.org/jobs.php>

CREDITS

Editor:

Samuel Muthamia

Contributors:

Hannah Ndungu, Dominic Mwendwa, Minyu Mugambi, Patrick Balla, John Ogege and Moses Kaibe

DISCLAIMER

Information contained in this newsletter reflects the views of ADRA Somalia and does not necessarily express the views of UN OCHA 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.