



**ADRA**  
ADVENTIST DEVELOPMENT  
AND RELIEF AGENCY



*A bi-monthly newsletter of ADRA Somalia*

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**'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.



## WASH Intervention Transforms Lives in Rural Somaliland

The recently concluded Drought Emergency Response Project in Somaliland (DERPS) that was implemented in Sahil Region of Somaliland has brought immense smiles and joy to a large section of beneficiaries who were targeted by the Project.

In Dohaguban Village, the WASH Chairman is ecstatic that the village can now be able to access running water owing to the intervention. "Look at that new hotel", says a beaming Farhan Hashi, "The hotel was recently opened by business lady called Zulekha thanks to the availability of water!" he observes. He further adds that the last time the village had a hotel was over 20 years ago, when he was still a young man.

The DERPS Project constructed an elevated water tank as well as piped water to the village that can now be accessed at a nearby *kiosk* (collection point) and through taps installed in strategic areas all over the village. In addition, water troughs for animals were constructed next to the village.

Moving further East, the villagers of Batalaale Community can now heave a collective sigh of relief after the DERPS Project installed a hybrid water system (solar and wind) that ensures the earlier problems of lack of water now becomes distant memories. "We are beside ourselves with joy!" says an obviously thrilled Ali Hassan – the WASH Chairman of the Village. "This intervention came just in the nick of time, before the harsh effects of drought had set in, *mahadsanid ADRA* (thank you ADRA)", he concludes and proceeds to inspect clean-up activities currently being undertaken at the village that has now adopted a strict approach to observing environmental cleanliness building on efforts that were pioneered by the Project.

In Berbera Town, over 7,000 people are now benefitting from water being supplied by the rehabilitated Faradeero 1 and 2 boreholes. Before rehabilitation, the two boreholes used to serve 5,000 people due to soft sand that had entered through the slots blocking screen filters and reducing water yields below 40%.

The Manager of Berbera Water Agency cannot hide his joy at this development and has vowed to always provide "101%" support to ADRA whenever new interventions on WASH are to be implemented in Berbera. According to him, some residents of Berbera Town now have a new name for water: "*Biyo* (or water) is now called ADRA", observes Mr. Hersi.

Based on the success stories, there is no doubt that the DERPS Project has greatly touched the lives of numerous beneficiaries in rural Somaliland and will continue touching them for many years to come.

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

## Emergency Intervention Provides Relief to Drought Stricken Communities

Somalia has always been prone to extreme climatic effects including cyclic droughts and floods and these usually have severe and devastating negative impacts on key socio-economic sectors. In Puntland, the 2010 Deyr rains (short rains expected between October and December) failed in most parts of the country and this greatly affected plant growth and pasture, leading to extensive crop failure and severe drought.

In November 2010, the President of Puntland announced a drought emergency in Puntland and appealed to the international community and humanitarian agencies to assist the people of Puntland. In addition, the government through the Humanitarian Affairs and Disaster Management Agency (HADMA) made an appeal to all humanitarian organizations operating in Puntland to make efforts to address the drought emergency.

As a response, ADRA Somalia—through PIN funding from ADRA International, ADRA Africa Regional Office and the East African Union—recently began implementing a water trucking intervention in selected villages worst hit by the drought in Puntland. The main objective of the project is to respond to immediate basic needs of vulnerable communities affected by drought in Nugal Region of Puntland by increasing access to safe water through water trucking.

The intervention is targeting to support some 1,290 households of vulnerable families spread within seven villages and envisages that with an average of 6 beneficiaries per family, approximately 7,740 beneficiaries will be reached.



*Water trucking in progress at Reebanti Village in Puntland*

## Livelihoods Project Received with Enthusiasm in Somaliland

“On behalf of Baki Farmers Group, I take this opportunity to cordially welcome ADRA to rural Somaliland”, says a gleaming Zulekha Hussein. Baki Farmers Group will be one of the beneficiaries of the recently introduced Emergency Water and Livelihoods Support Programme (EWLSP 034) that was relocated from its initial implementation region of Bay and Bakol in South Central Somalia to Awdal and Gabiley regions of Somaliland due to security concerns.

“Our region is blessed with good rains thereby making it a rich agricultural area”, adds Zulekha, as her 5 month old son Ahmed grudgingly wakes up from a long slumber. As one of its main activities, the Project intends to work with different Farmers’ Groups in the area to train them on how to obtain marketing skills for their farm produce as well as preservation skills that will ensure that the farm produce grown by the Farmers’ Groups does not perish easily after harvesting.

EWLSP has a goal of providing emergency relief and strengthen the resilience of communities to enhance economic recovery in Somalia. Its strategic objectives are increased access to sustainable safe water, sanitation, and hygiene and diversified household agricultural-based livelihoods.

Thus far, different farmers’ groups have been approached and given an introduction about the aims and objectives of the Project. All of them have warmly welcomed the Project and have indicated that they hope that now they will be able to acquire good skills to market their produce as well as acquire new farming techniques to further advance their Associations. “Our area has very good underwater sources owing to the relatively good rains that this region normally receives every season”, observes a hopeful Farrah Abdi, one of the farmers recently introduced to the Project.

“My colleagues and I will be committed to this Project and we hope that it will be a good model for replication as well as set a good example in other regions of Somaliland”, he concludes.



*Preparation of seed bed nurseries and (inset), tomatoes growing in one of the farms in Baki*

## Using Solar Energy to Provide Rays of Hope

Marian Abdihassan is a middle aged woman, a mother of 11 who lives in God'awayne village. She is a student in the Adult Learning Classes that was started at God'awayne Primary School, after the installation of a solar electricity system at the school. Marian is part of the 35 students (25 women and 10 men) who are enrolled in the classes aimed at instilling numeracy and literacy skills in adults who did not have an opportunity to read and write due to conflict in Somaliland. She reports that as a result of the knowledge she has received at the classes, she is now able to keep accurate records of her sales and expenses at the small shop she runs in the village. Her 11 children are also learning at the school and she is able to help them with some of their homework. She reckons that without the solar lighting system, she would never have had the opportunity to read and write and be involved in the education of her children. She is a member of the Community Education Committee and is now more involved in encouraging her age-mates to enrol for the adult learning classes as she sees the benefit first hand.

A few kilometres away in Lasaadawo village at the Mother and Child Health Centre, a video on HIV/AIDS awareness is being played on the VCR, powered by a solar electricity system. The awareness videos are aired 4 times a month, and cover issues such as nutrition, HIV/AIDS, breastfeeding and immunization. The video screenings are attended by members of the community, and neighbouring villages as well, up to a radius of 20km. According to the MCH manager, the videos are a new feature at the centre, started after the installation of a solar electricity system. The system also provides lighting, which facilitates better care for patients who visit the centre at night. Previously, the centre would utilize kerosene lamps at night, which provide poor light and emit a lot of smoke. Now, clean and sustainable lighting is available at no cost. Most of the night time emergencies are mothers who need to give birth. The system is therefore contributing to improved child birth in the village and in the nation as a whole.

At the primary school a few metres away from the MCH, the principal is happy to report that 150 young children have enrolled in evening Koranic classes, since the installation of a solar lighting system. The system also provides a chance for students to revise in the evenings. The students are excited to be learning in the evenings using solar lights and they say it makes them feel like they are in the capital city. Also, 8 teachers in the school are able to charge their mobile phones during the day time. Previously, the teachers charged their mobile phones for a fee at the town centre.

The lighting systems also provide security at the school health centre and are now often used for village meetings. It is obvious that the solar systems have changed the lives of the local community.

These are only a few of the stories that are testament to the impact that the recently concluded Somali Energy and Livelihoods Project (SELP) has had on the lives of the local community. A total of 25 schools and 15 rural Mother and Child Health Centres received solar electricity systems consisting of panels, batteries, inverters and charge controllers. The systems installed in schools are directly impacting beneficiaries 10,205 (students and teachers), while the systems installed in health centres are directly impacting 12,626 patients per month. Adult classes which are usually conducted during the night time are now conducted using good quality lighting from solar systems. Over 1,000 patients are attended to during the night using the lighting provided by the system. The systems were provided with the support from the European Union (EU/ACP energy facility). There is need for scaling up such interventions to cover a higher number of schools and health centres.

