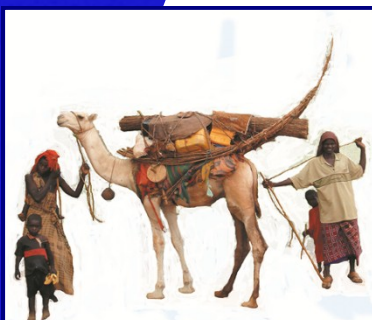




ADVENTIST DEVELOPMENT
AND RELIEF AGENCY

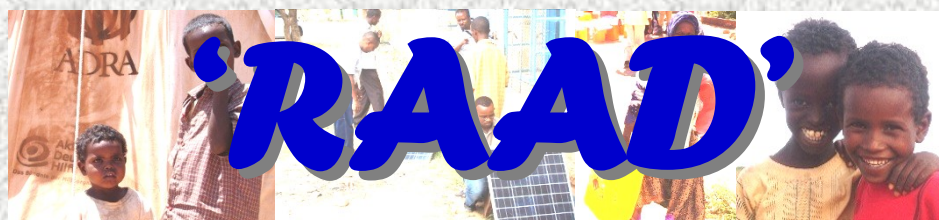


'RAAD' is the Somali word for **'footprints'**. ADRA Somalia iconizes its interventions in Somalia/Somaliland as footprints left on the people's hearts as reported in this bi-monthly newsletter.



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A bi-monthly newsletter of ADRA Somalia

June/July 2011

Hunger in the Horn

The Horn of Africa is experiencing the most severe food crisis in the world today, with Somalia being the hardest hit. In the first half of 2011, the number of people in urgent need of humanitarian assistance increased by almost 850,000 to some 2.85 million people, one in three Somalis. This crisis in Somalia will have an increasingly devastating effect on other countries in the region.

In the Horn of Africa there are currently already 10 million people in crisis, including the 2.85 million in Somalia. The number is increasing on a daily basis, with thousands of Somalis fleeing to Ethiopia, Kenya and Djibouti every day. Three in five children arriving in refugee camps in Ethiopia from southern Somalia are malnourished.

In refugee camps in Kenya, more deaths were recorded amongst Somali children in the therapeutic feeding centers in the first quarter of 2011 than the whole of 2010. This is an indicator of how dire the food security situation is in southern Somalia, the epicenter of the regional crisis. A recent assessment conducted in Banadir Region by ADRA Somalia and Development Action Network – a local NGO working in Mogadishu – revealed the exact magnitude of the drought that has ravaged the region.

Interviews with Internally Displaced Persons at one of the camps in Xamarweyne district (the camp is housing IDPs affected by the drought from the regions of Bay, Bakol and Lower Shabelle) perhaps best illustrates the dire situation. Some of these interviews are captured in the next article of this newsletter.

Current humanitarian response is inadequate to meet emergency needs. As a result, famine is expected to spread across all regions of the south in the coming 1-2 months. In total, 3.7 million people are currently in crisis nationwide; among these, 3.2 million people need immediate, lifesaving assistance (2.8 million in the south). As of early July, 390,000 children under five are acutely malnourished, 170,000 severely; 81 percent of acutely malnourished children live in the south.

The current situation represents Africa's worst food security crisis since Somalia's 1991/92 famine. A massive multi sectoral response is critical to prevent additional deaths and total livelihood/social collapse. Most immediately, interventions to improve food access and to address health/nutrition issues are needed. In the medium term, interventions to rebuild and support livelihoods are critical. Extraordinary measures to provide these responses should be implemented. These assistance needs will persist through at least December 2011.



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

Struggling to Survive the Arduous Drought

Dying children, hunger and overcrowded camps. That is the picture that greets one in South Central Somalia as well as some regions of Somaliland and Puntland. Shacni Liiban is frail and gaunt after walking for 7 days towards Hudur District in rural Somalia to receive food rations. According to her, she does not even know where exactly she is headed – all she heard was an announcement from the British Broadcasting Service (BBC) Somali service informing drought affected people that food rations were being provided at Daadab Camp. Sadly, she does not seem to know where Daadab Camp is, all she wants is food for her and her four starving children and she must get to Daadab at all costs – her safety and that of her family notwithstanding.

Her entire livestock consisting of 16 goats and 4 camels have all been wiped out by the drought; which has now deteriorated to famine in two regions of Somalia - Lower Shabelle and the southern Bakool – and unless something is done soon it will affect nine more regions of Somalia. In the last few months, tens of thousands of people have died as a result of causes related to malnutrition; the majority of them are children. According to recent estimates, there are close to 200,000 IDPs in three districts of Somaliland – El Afwein, Odweyne and Aynabo Districts and these figures will continue to rise as more and more refugees migrate from Southern Somalia and Puntland to Somaliland in search of food and water.

At Xamarweyne IDP camp in Banadir Region of South Central Somalia, the situation is dire. Mayow Osman is a forty year old IDP; all his animals have perished in the drought and he goes on to narrate how he reached the IDP camp in Mogadishu, from his home in Dinsor District, some 300 kilometers away. He explains how he and his family walked for two weeks to get to Mogadishu while being stopped on the way by Al Shabaab militia who prevented him and his family of five from entering the capital city because they believed says he: “We were looking for assistance from the Transitional Federal Government controlled part of Mogadishu and were therefore enemies of liberation”. Mayow is part of 26,500 IDPs who have recently arrived at the camp, and many more are streaming in daily. The IDPs have no clean water access and in addition to the severe malnutrition; an acute outbreak of diarrhoea and measles cases have been reported. Mortality deaths have also been reported.

Prior to the drought, Ahmed Ali was a considerably wealthy man. With 64 head of cattle and an additional 40 goats and 6 camels, the fifty four year old father of six was living a comfortable life until the harsh effects of the drought started kicking in almost two years ago. According to Ali, “It all began when the rains started to become insufficient during the first year and subsequently disappeared after year two and this led to our pastures drying up as well as our water points.

The animals began to die one after another and despite our best efforts to try and migrate in search of water and pasture for the livestock, we were unable to find any and thus ended up losing my entire herd to the drought.”, says a despondent Ali, who is adamant that despite the harsh times that he is going through, he will still be able to return to a normal life soon. Ali is one of many IDPs who have left their homes to seek help in IDP camps. However, thousands more have chosen to remain behind in a desperate struggle for survival.



A Pictorial of the Somalia Drought Situation



An almost dry water point in Sool Region of Somaliland



A malnourished child at an IDP Camp in Banadir Region



Failed sorghum crops in Sanaag Region of Somaliland



Migration of IDPs from Bakol Region to Banadir Region



IDPs await food rations at At Xamarweyne IDP camp in Banadir Region



A collapsed water point in Sanaag Region of Somaliland

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

ADRA's Response to the Crisis

In responding to the crisis, ADRA Somalia has recently completed an emergency intervention in Nugal Region of Puntland State of Somalia that was aimed at responding to immediate basic needs of vulnerable communities affected by the drought by increasing access to safe water through water trucking. The intervention targeted to support some 1,290 households of vulnerable families spread within seven (7) villages and approximately 7,740 beneficiaries were reached by project end.

Moreover, ADRA Somalia has also begun implementing a USAID/OFDA funded intervention in Somaliland that is aimed towards strengthening resilience of communities in emergency situations in Somalia. The project is targeting a total of 93,200 individuals among which 20,637 are internally displaced persons (IDPs). The 12-month Program Supporting the Emergency in Water and Livelihoods (PSEWLS) will address critical food security and water needs for local residents and a portion of the IDP population in Somalia.

In addition, ADRA has also begun implementing a 6 month emergency intervention in Puntland. The Project – Puntland Emergency Drought Project (PEDP) is funded by the ADRA Network and is being implemented in three regions of Puntland: Nugal, Galgadud and Mudug and aims at strengthening the resilience of part of the drought affected population by increasing access to safe water and improve IDP conditions through provision of non food items (NFIs).

, ADRA Somalia's strategy in responding to the crisis is to reach the unreached and provide immediate life saving responses. ADRA recently carried out an assessment in Banaadir Region of South Central Somalia and another in Togdheer region of Somaliland. The findings of the assessments depict a bleak picture that requires immediate response. The most urgent needs are water, food, health, shelter among other vital amenities.

ADRA plans to partner with local NGOs in areas where the Agency's access might be limited in order to provide the much needed humanitarian assistance. This assistance will include: emergency water trucking, provision of food rations including rice, sugar, powdered milk and vegetable oil; support/repair of strategic boreholes, rehabilitation of water points (wells and *berkads*), rain water harvesting, water storage facilities, provide NFIs (plastic sheet for shelter, sleeping mats, blankets/sheets, mosquito nets, water container, basic utensils), construct latrines in IDPs camps, provide chlorine tablets, hygiene and sanitation training as well as cash for work in environmental sanitation activities such as digging waste disposal pits and other related activities.

ADRA Somalia is open to funding resources for immediate response to the situation. Progress on the situation will continually be shared as it comes from the field. ADRA Somalia's emergency team in the head office and at the field level is in close communication to coordinate the responses in a timely manner.



Water trucking in Nugal Region of Puntland



Rehabilitation of water points in rural Somaliland



Distribution of non food items in Mudug Region of Puntland