



'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 by this newsletter.

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New Energy Project Launched in Somaliland

A Project aimed at enhancing the use of renewable energy resources and equitable development of Somaliland was recently launched in Burao District. The Project—Engaging Non-State Actors in the Promotion of Alternative Energy Services (NSAs) is aimed at preventing conflict, improving economic development of Somali people and reversing loss of biodiversity through provision of sustainable energy services.

The challenges facing the energy sector of Somaliland are vast, and are linked to the low levels of development experienced in this post conflict country. The Country is characterized by a devastated economy with human and physical infrastructure in shambles, severe economic distortions and macroeconomic imbalances, flawed or weak national civil institutions and a high dependence on official aid flows, mostly in the form of grants. Energy and energy services have been identified as an integral part of reconstruction of the Somaliland economy that is in the process of economic and social transformation after the civil war.

Since 1997, ADRA Somalia has been promoting access to energy services in Somaliland through interventions aimed at enhancing the

use of renewable resources and the equitable development of the energy sector of the Country. This latest intervention funded by the European Commission (EC) targets 700 individuals from 70 organisations who participated in the initial process of formulating an energy policy document for Somaliland that was spearheaded by ADRA in 2006. The Project is specifically targeting women and youth who are most affected by poverty, resource conflict and poor energy services.

The Project will involve established neighbourhood committees, women groups and vocational youth training institutions who will be the core target groups and will participate in all activities implemented within the programme.

A ceremony to officially launch the Project was held in May and among those in attendance included Engineer Saleeban, Director of Energy in the Ministry of Industry and Energy as well as several other important Government Officials. It is envisaged that successful implementation of the intervention will benefit the people of Somaliland through improved energy services by ensuring energy security, access, affordability and availability without compromising the environment.



Some of the Participants who attended the NSA's Project Launch



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

In the Footsteps of EWLSP Project—One of ADRA's Emergency Interventions

Since 2006, ADRA has been implementing an emergency intervention in Bay and Bakol Regions of South Central Somalia aimed at providing emergency relief and strengthen the resilience of communities to enhance economic recovery. The intervention—Emergency Water and Livelihood Support Programme (EWLSP) is currently in its fourth phase of implementation and it seeks to support vulnerable communities as well as those hosting IDPs with emergency livelihood support by assisting the target communities to enhance capacity so as to cope with ongoing crisis and prevent the total loss of livelihood assets.

The humanitarian crisis in Somalia has been taking on a different dimension with regards to how many people are faced by the catastrophe. The crisis is now widespread to not only 1.2 million rural people like was the case previously but now about two thirds of those in crisis (around 2 million people) are urban, rural poor or internally displaced persons (IDPs). Subsequently, the crisis has been worsening due to a combination of three main factors: insecurity, drought and hyperinflation causing sky-rocketing food prices.

In Bakol and Bay regions of South Central Somalia, about 38% of the population is facing acute food/livelihood crisis and humanitarian emergency.

EWLSP is divided into two sectors: Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) and Agriculture & Food Security. The main objective of the WASH sector is to increase access to clean and safe water, sanitation and hygiene and this is achieved through a number of activities including construction/rehabilitation of water points

such as boreholes, underground tanks (*berkads*), water catchments, shallow wells, dams and water pans. To support communities get these facilities back into use, ADRA rehabilitates these through a multi-faceted strategy that involves dealing with host communities.

During infrastructure development, ADRA engages the host communities in a participatory relationship that establishes and strengthens community partnerships and institutions. The strengthening involves establishment of WASH committees that are responsible in the overall implementation and maintenance of works. These committees are trained to increase capacities to carry out the management of the rehabilitated water points. The establishment of the WASH committees takes care of various stakeholders that includes host communities, and disadvantaged groups such as women and nomads/pastoralists. By involving the main stakeholders in the management of the rehabilitated water points, this ensures the security of the infrastructure and ADRA staff involved in the project.

The Agriculture and Food Security Sector's main objective is to ensure diversified agricultural-based livelihoods for economic empowerment and this is achieved by capacity building initiatives, cash for work schemes and providing support for group engagement in Income Generating Activities (IGAs).



Left: A *berkad* (underground water tank) constructed at Beledamin Village

Middle: Women tending to Kitchen Gardens in Buulow

Right: A borehole before and after rehabilitation at Bulu Adey Village

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ADRA Sets Up Energy Resource Centre in Somaliland

Access to publications covering energy and environment topics has always been an challenge in Somaliland and in an attempt to address this issue, ADRA recently established an Energy Resource Centre at the Somaliland Ministry of Industry and Energy. The main aim of setting up the Resource Centre was to create a central location where all important publications used by the Ministry e.g. energy policies and strategies among other relevant documents could be easily accessed by Ministry Officials.

The new Resource Centre is managed by two full-time staff who are employed by the Ministry of Energy and were trained by ADRA on Library Database Management. The Centre was modeled based on visits to other existing Resource Centers at the Africa Education Trust (AET) and Nagaad, a women umbrella organization both of whom are based in Hargeisa, Somaliland. Currently, the Resource Centre has over 500 published books, reports, journals, magazines and occasional papers as well as several multimedia products including CDs and DVDs on energy and environment. Just recently, the Centre received 175 copies of magazines on climate change from the German Embassy based in Nairobi, Kenya.

ADRA plans to set up a similar resource centre at the Ministry of Public Works in Puntland.



Top: Resource Centre Custodians label book shelves & **(above)** Some of the books shelved at the Resource Centre

Photos: Charles Sandefur's Visit to ADRA Somalia's Nairobi Office



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