



ADVENTIST DEVELOPMENT
AND RELIEF AGENCY



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Energy Policy Officially Launched in Somaliland

After several years of concerted efforts between ADRA and Government of Somaliland, the Somaliland Energy Policy was officially launched on 8th December during a colourful ceremony that was presided over by the Somaliland Minister for Mining, Energy and Water Resources Eng. Hussein Abdi Dualeh. Also in attendance were several Government Dignitaries, Representatives of Local and International NGO's, Members of the Business Community, Civil Society, Women Representatives and members of the public.

The overall goal of the Policy is 'to meet the energy needs of Somaliland for social and economic development in a cost effective way that promotes sustainable energy production and use while minimising negative environmental impacts'.

Compilation of the Energy Policy began in 2006 through an EU funded intervention called 'Facilitating Somaliland Energy Policy Dialogue' which had the specific objective of facilitating the development of an energy policy and regulatory framework document for Somaliland through working with non-state actors (NSA).

In coming up with the Energy Policy, ADRA in collaboration with the line ministry trained and built the capacities of stakeholders in the energy sector of Somaliland in energy policy development and advocacy. This process enabled stakeholders to be able to undertake data and information collection that would inform the policy planning process.

Data and information was collected through undertaking an energy study targeting households and service/commercial sectors in Hargeisa, Borama, Berbera and Burao regional centres. This was then followed by two policy dialogue workshops that were aimed at enabling stakeholders to debate on the draft policy and seek consensus on its content.

During the Launch, Eng. Dualeh observed that the energy policy would go a long way in laying the foundation for developing the country's energy sector and is a prelude to developing a regulatory framework for Somaliland.

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

Solar PV Curriculum Training Held in Somaliland and Puntland

Solar energy is one alternative source of energy that has been identified as a suitable option for providing modern energy services to Somaliland and Puntland. However, utilization of solar as a major source of energy continues to be hampered by the lack of adequate technical capacity and the lack of a structured training programme that can develop and deliver skilled personnel with knowledge and skills suited for the industry.

In order to address these issues, ADRA recently facilitated a training needs assessment which led to the development of a solar Photovoltaic curriculum within the Ministries of Education of Somaliland and Puntland. Two workshops targeting existing solar electricians in both countries were then carried out aimed at equipping trainees with skills that they would subsequently use to train others.

In total, 45 technicians from both countries were trained. Trainees expressed confidence that the skills and knowledge acquired would be applied towards enhancing the solar energy sectors of Somaliland and Puntland.



Drought/Disaster Risk Reduction Training Held in Somaliland

A training workshop on disaster and water management for 30 participants from Somaliland's district authorities, regional departments, village committees and National Environmental Research and Disaster Preparedness Authority (NERAD) technical staff was recently conducted by ADRA and was aimed at building the capacity of participants on disaster/drought management and conflict resolution. The workshop was also aimed at equipping skills of participants on water management, leadership, health, hygiene and sanitation.

Drought occurrence in Somaliland is becoming more frequent and is a very serious hazard that often threatens the livelihoods of pastoral



communities. Despite drought being very frequent, communities' preparedness is weak and coping strategies are wearing away. Seasonal flash floods also affect hundreds of people in Somaliland causing death, loss of property and livelihoods leading to outbreaks of water-borne diseases. Communities seem to be less proactive in identifying the severity of impending disasters and preparing for them, thus warranting emergency relief now and then. Participants were trained on Drought Cycle Management (DCM) and Disaster Risk Reduction Strategies. "This training is very important in equipping communities with the knowledge, skills and attitudes for minimizing the adverse impacts of disasters", observed Said Jama Ayah - the Mayor of Berbera Region when closing the Workshop.

ADRA plans to hold a training on Water Points Management in the same region in the foreseeable future.

Promoting Safe Hygiene & Sanitation Practices in Qansadhere District

“You would not believe it if I were to explain to you how our village was prior to our residents being introduced to safe hygiene and sanitation practices”, explains Madey Jiibow, the Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) Chairman of Bulogor Village in Qansadhere District of South Central Somalia. “Although the rainy season is always a blessing, for our village the rains normally brought with them blessings and curses in equal measure”, he further adds; as a grimacing look begins to form on his previously ecstatic facade. After some further prodding, Jiibow goes on to explain how waterborne diseases-as a result of poor hygiene and sanitation practices-would often lead to deaths especially of young infants after drinking contaminated water.

Prior to ADRA’s intervention, the village’s hygiene and sanitation infrastructure was almost non-existent and villagers used to defecate in the back of their homes, in the bush or in open places. When the rains would come, they would wash this waste to the watering points leading to contamination and subsequently affecting the health of the residents. ADRA constructed several traditional latrines at the village and carried out sanitation and hygiene campaigns aimed at creating awareness on the importance of proper disposal of waste in reducing diseases. According to Jiibow, most villagers have never seen or used a latrine before and therefore demonstrations were conducted which included how to clean one’s hands after using the latrine. In all the latrines constructed, hand-washing facilities were also installed.

“In addition, clean-up activities in and around the village were also carried out and will continue being carried out on a regular basis”, promises Jiibow. “On behalf of the WASH Committee of Bulogor Village, I pass my appreciation to ADRA for introducing us to safe hygiene and sanitation practices”, he concludes, and proceeds to meet with a contractor who has come to deliver a supply of new brooms, brushes and soap.



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