

COVID-19 Response



Representatives from Iftin school in Kismayo inspecting the foot pedal handwash facilities made by students from Kismayo Technical Institute.

TVET Students Adopting Sustaining Innovations During COVID-19

COVID-19 has forced everyone to think of solutions to the problems the virus has brought, giving individuals an opportunity to work into these problems and come up with innovative ideas.

Students from Kismayo Technical Institute saw an opportunity and made innovative handwash facilities where individuals avoid direct contact with the tap and

soap as water and soap is dispensed through pedaling. As washing hands is recommended during this time, so is the need to have a sustaining innovation that is adopted to improve the functioning of an existing product.

The students from the institute, that ADRA has been supporting since 2015, were able to make 50 innovative handwash facilities

through the NORAD funded SEAQE (Strengthening Equity, Access & Quality in Education) project.

In collaboration with the Ministry of health, the handwash facilities were distributed in MCHs, schools, government institutions and ministries, learning centers, hotels and restaurants and the seaport in Kismayo District.

These activities complement previous COVID-19 prevention works that the Ministry of Health and ADRA have done that include radio awareness messages, erecting billboards, community health awareness and stickers.

The 3-month COVID-19 response, that started in May is supported by the SEAQE project and funded by NORAD. The response is expected to reach 5,000 beneficiaries in Jubbaland and Banadir Regional Administration.



The handwash facilities being assembled for distribution in government ministries.

ADRA Provides Food Items to Communities Affected by Floods in Puntland



Beneficiaries of the flood emergency response in Qardho, Puntland. The initial response through ADRA International reached 165 households.

ADRA continues to be on the frontline providing needed relief to communities

affected by flash floods in Somalia. Through funds from ADRA International

and ADRA France, the Gardo Initial Food Emergency Response (GIFER), reached 230 households in Qardho, Puntland. Each household received food items consisting of 25 kgs of rice, 25kgs of sugar, 25 kgs of wheat flour, 1kg dates, 1kgs of tea leaves, 3 litres of cooking oil and 2.5kgs of milk powder.

The beneficiaries consisted of the most vulnerable groups who included the elderly, people living with disabilities, female and child headed households and orphans.



Through additional funding from ADRA France, 65 households benefited from the flood response in Qardho, Puntland.

The 2020 Gu rains (April-June) intensified in Somalia, triggering flash flooding in several regions in Somalia. According to [OCHA's flash flood situation report](#),

918,000 people were affected by the flash and riverine flooding in Somalia, of whom 412,000 were displaced. In Qardho town, it is estimated that 22,500 people were affected by the flash floods. The floods came at a time when Somalia is grappling with COVID-19 pandemic. As of June 30, there were 2,924 confirmed cases, with Puntland recording 299 cases.

In keeping with the COVID-19 preventive measures, beneficiaries were first educated on COVID-19 and its preventive measures. Social distancing was also observed, thus distribution was done over a period of four days to ensure there is no overcrowding.

ADRA has been at the forefront, coordinating activities for COVID-19 prevention and awareness response in Puntland. Through the SIDA funded Somalia WASH Service Delivery Improvement (SOWASDIP) project, ADRA distributed hand sanitizers and soaps in IDP camps, health facilities and government institutions in Puntland. Dissemination of behaviour change communication such as fliers, billboards and community health mobilizers were also utilised. In partnership with Somali Broadcasting Cooperation in Puntland, COVID-19 awareness and preventive messages were also aired 3 times a day. The response took place in the months of April and May.

Health Facilities Changing Lives in Lascanod



A woman washing her hands at the Samakab MCH. The handwash facilities were strategically placed at the MCH.

Having a health facility is not a basic want but a basic need. For residents of Samakab village in Lascanod district of Somaliland, having a health facility was a fulfillment to a need. The villagers had to contend without a health facility for a long time and were forced to walk over 35 kms to get to the nearest health facility.

ADRA through the SDC project under the SomReP consortium and community contribution, completed the Samakab MCH that was officially opened in November 2019. The MCH that has four rooms, two toilets, and a water supply system, serves the predominantly pastoralist community in the area.

According to Jama Mohamud Ahmed, the chairman of Samakab Village Development Committee (VDC), the MCH serves an average of 18 people every day. Most patients are women who come for maternal health as well as child nutrition. Other medical issues that are catered for in the clinic are minor surgeries and emergencies.

Having such a facility within reach has saved many lives and is cost effective.

“This is one of the best contributions that anyone has ever offered to Samakab village as it saves lives, cost and time,” says Jama.



Handwash facilities strategically placed at the Samakab MCH. Patients wash their hands before getting into the MCH.

The regional representative for the Ministry of Health applauded the work done but recognized the gaps that still needs to be filled to provide comprehensive support to the wider

community. He therefore called for more partnerships to provide the much needed health care in most locations in the region.

With the support of the Somaliland government, ADRA is also strengthening the capacity of health facilities to support prevention and effective management of the coronavirus pandemic.

Through the RESTORE project funded by European Union under the SomReP consortium, ADRA supported the health facility by providing hygiene kits that included soaps and hand wash facilities. Health promoters were also utilised to ensure that the community received the right information on COVID-19 and the preventive measures.

Somaliland recorded its first COVID-19 case on 31 March. So far it has a total of 729 confirmed cases with 157 recoveries (as of 30 June).

Supporting Education Through Radio Interactions

When schools closed in mid-March in Somaliland due to COVID-19, both teachers and students were affected as the teaching and learning process came to a halt in the middle of the academic year. Few weeks into the situation, the Ministry of Education in conjunction with teachers and education partners, initiated learning through radio and TV. The aim was to ensure learning continues and as many students as possible can access the platforms.

ADRA through the Educate Girls, End Poverty (EGEP-T) project supported the MoE to implement radio lessons for secondary schools, that were aired daily. There was also a component of advocacy on radio, targeting parents and caregivers with key messages on how their children could access alternative education options as schools remained closed. With funding from DIFID, these activities were carried out in the months of May and June, targeting an estimated 9,300 learners in Somaliland.

Baraqwo Community Grateful for ADRA's Interventions

The administration, the Community Education Committee (CEC) and the general community of Baraqwo school in Kismayo have appreciated ADRA's accomplishments at the school. Through a letter from the headteacher, the school administration appreciated ADRA for their diligent work through the Education in Emergencies project funded by ECHO (European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations).

Some of the notable achievements included provision of sanitary kits to adolescent girls in the school; teachers incentive; community mobilization on school access and retention of children in the school; improving quality of learning through capacity building for teachers and CECs; providing recreational materials and providing classroom facilities like school desks.

The ECHO funded project provides access to inclusive, quality, and protective education services to displaced girls and boys in Jubaland, Hirshabelle and South West States of Somalia.