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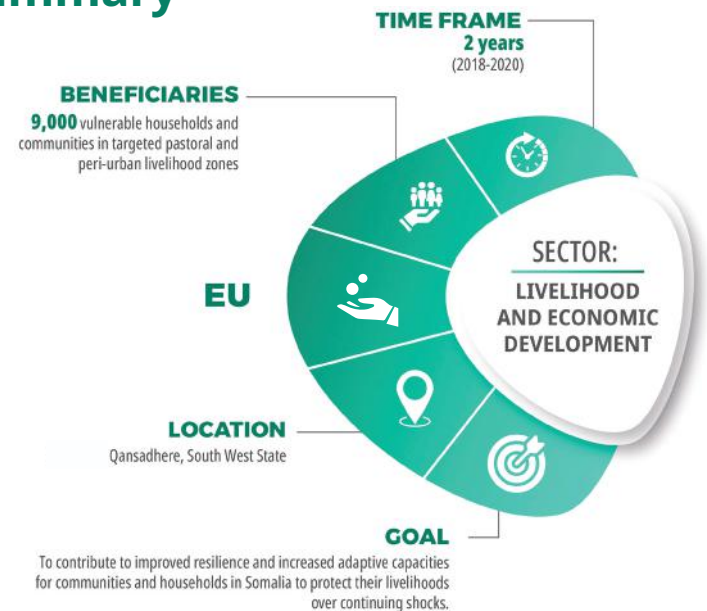


SOUTH WEST STATE DROUGHT RECOVERY (SWS-DR) PROGRAM



Student in a TVET class. 60 youth were trained in different skills to enhance employment and competitiveness.
Cover page photo: 68-year-old Hawo Derow Ali, holds sorghum heads. Through unconditional cash, she was able to save and plant sorghum, cowpeas and watermelon.

Brief Summary



About the Project

ADRA under the Somalia Resilience Program (SomReP) consortium implements drought recovery livelihoods, food security and resilience projects aimed at building community assets and creating safety nets which enabled the beneficiaries to withstand the effects of recurring disasters in Somalia. Specifically, SomReP and its partners contribute to building resilience based on absorptive capacity that helped beneficiaries minimize exposure to shocks and stress through preventive measures and helped them develop appropriate coping strategies. Households are also involved in absorptive capacity where they are proactive and make informed choices about alternate livelihood strategies based on the understanding of the changing conditions, risks and opportunities. Transformative capacity is also key where the government mechanisms and community networks provide an enabling

environment for the management of community resources. SomReP is a consortium of seven international Non-Governmental Organizations (INGOs) namely: ACF, ADRA, CARE, COOPI, DRC, OXFAM and World Vision.

The South West State Drought Recovery (SWS-DR) program in Qansadhere was developed in response to the effects of drought in Somalia. The drought had decimated the livelihoods of the agro-pastoralist hence the need to provide support that could prevent further deterioration and enhance the rate of recovery. The resilience program supported households and communities to recover, adapt and diversify their livelihoods and asset base in order to cope effectively during harsh dry seasons

and disaster episodes. With SomReP's approach of quick recovery from shock, the program promoted local absorptive and adaptive capacity of households and communities. This entailed provision of cash-based interventions to provide resources that immediately improved the purchasing power of the community members and the unconditional cash transferred to the very needy in the community. The adaptive approaches included the training on good agricultural practices, community animal workers, formation of saving groups and training of youth in different skill sets. The program also built institutional capacity in the government ministries by strengthening the natural resource management that underpins resilience livelihood.

Funded by European Union the intervention increased the resilience of chronically **9,000** vulnerable, households and communities in targeted pastoral and peri-urban livelihood zones.

To respond to the effects of drought, SWS-DR project delivered the following outputs:

Outputs

1. Enhanced food security and capacity to meet social needs through sustainable cash-based assistance mechanisms and improved access to social capital enabling risk mitigation, promotion livelihood diversification and improved productivity.
2. Natural resources base for sustainable livelihood is restored through rehabilitation of degraded rangeland, farmland and water infrastructure (soil bunds, sand dams, check dams, reservoirs, boreholes & berkads) and enhanced management governance of natural resources to support sustainable pastoral livelihoods.
3. Enhanced livelihood diversification for women, men and youth through the restoration of productive assets, adoption of agricultural technologies, improved production systems and skills development for livelihood diversification.
4. Enhanced drought recovery and disaster preparedness through community action planning to ensure available contingency resources, protection and rehabilitation of productive assets and development of sustainable livelihoods.

Key Achievements



2000 people

were reached through cash for work projects from the community action and adaption plan (CAAP) that included rehabilitation of productive livelihood assets e.g. water pans, shallow wells, irrigation canals and natural resources.



563 vulnerable beneficiaries received **US \$500** in five tranches through unconditional cash transfer.



2 water points were rehabilitated for household, agriculture and livestock consumption.



3 training were conducted for communities and governments on operation and maintenance of water points.



One assessment on private public partnership was created for maintenance on water points.



20 Village and Savings Loan Associations (VSLA) trained in savings and loans methodology.



20 VSLA groups were established and operational.



200 beneficiaries trained to establish multi-storey (sack) or kitchen gardens.



4 groups trained in pastoral/farmer field schools (P/FFS) for distribution of agricultural inputs to farmers.



752 farmers provided with affordable agricultural inputs.



33 community animal health workers trained.



4 groups trained in P/FFS for distribution of agricultural inputs to farmers.



1 study done to analyze small scale value chain and market systems.



60 trainees granted technical vocational education and training (TVET).



60 TVET graduates provided with start-up kits or capital to engage in Small Medium Enterprises(SMEs).



2 training conducted to strengthen Village Development Committees (VDCs) and Early Warning Early Action (EWEA) committees to support development of contingency plans.



1 assessment done to support establishment of South West State disaster preparedness unit.



Government staff trained to support community Early Warning Early Action (EWEA) systems.



30 farmers provided with donkey carts to ease transport of farm produce.

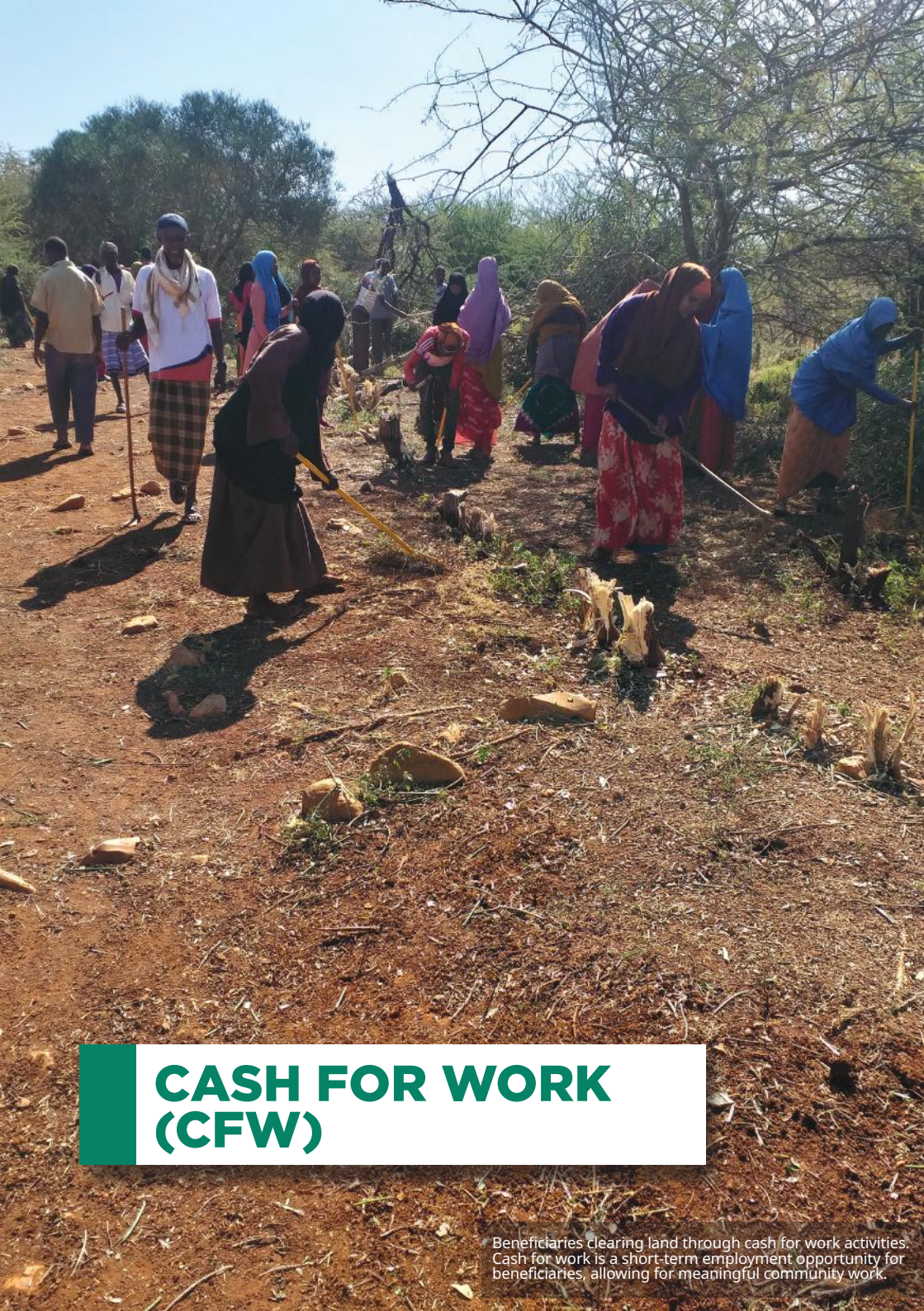


300 drums provided to farmers to use for grain storage.

Challenges

During the implementation phase of this program, ADRA faced two key challenges: access and level of need. Due to security concerns, access to areas of need was difficult. The town cannot be accessed by road as vehicle transport is prohibited and this makes transportation of supplies difficult hence the astronomically high cost of interventions. This blockade has affected the quality of life of the residents hence the high level of need witnessed

The low number of businesses and humanitarian actors in the area mean that any small response attracts everyone in the community. This made it difficult during beneficiary selections which eventually mutated to complaints and at times accusations of corruption in the selection of the beneficiaries. This challenge amplified the level of need and the required balance in selection of beneficiaries for any activity.



CASH FOR WORK (CFW)

Beneficiaries clearing land through cash for work activities. Cash for work is a short-term employment opportunity for beneficiaries, allowing for meaningful community work.

Cash for Work (CFW)

As a quick measure of providing purchasing power, communities were engaged in short term employment in the desilting of water catchments and road clearing. 11 sites were approved for support with a range of **100-300 beneficiaries** engaged in each site to do the work. For the 11 sites, about **2000 people** have been engaged in the short-term engagement each earning average of **US\$100**. At the start, **795 farmers** were equally supported to expand their areas under cultivation through engaging casuals to till or expand land for planting.

Lessons Learnt

- Cash for work acts as a safety net for drought response and recovery.
- Cash for work is a short-term employment opportunity for the beneficiaries allowing for meaningful community work.
- The project maximized resilience gains through strengthened integrations of cash for work focusing on supporting water resources rehabilitations.
- The activity diversified household income sources and increased access to water, especially where water sources were rehabilitated.

"Accessing water for 48-year-old Adan Ibrahim and his family was always difficult. His children would walk for long distance to get water for household use. Through cash for work, Adan was among those who excavated a water catchment area. Together with his family, Adan has access to water for his family and livestock. His children also don't have to walk for long distance looking for water."



Beneficiaries engaged in short term employment through cash for work on selected community activities.

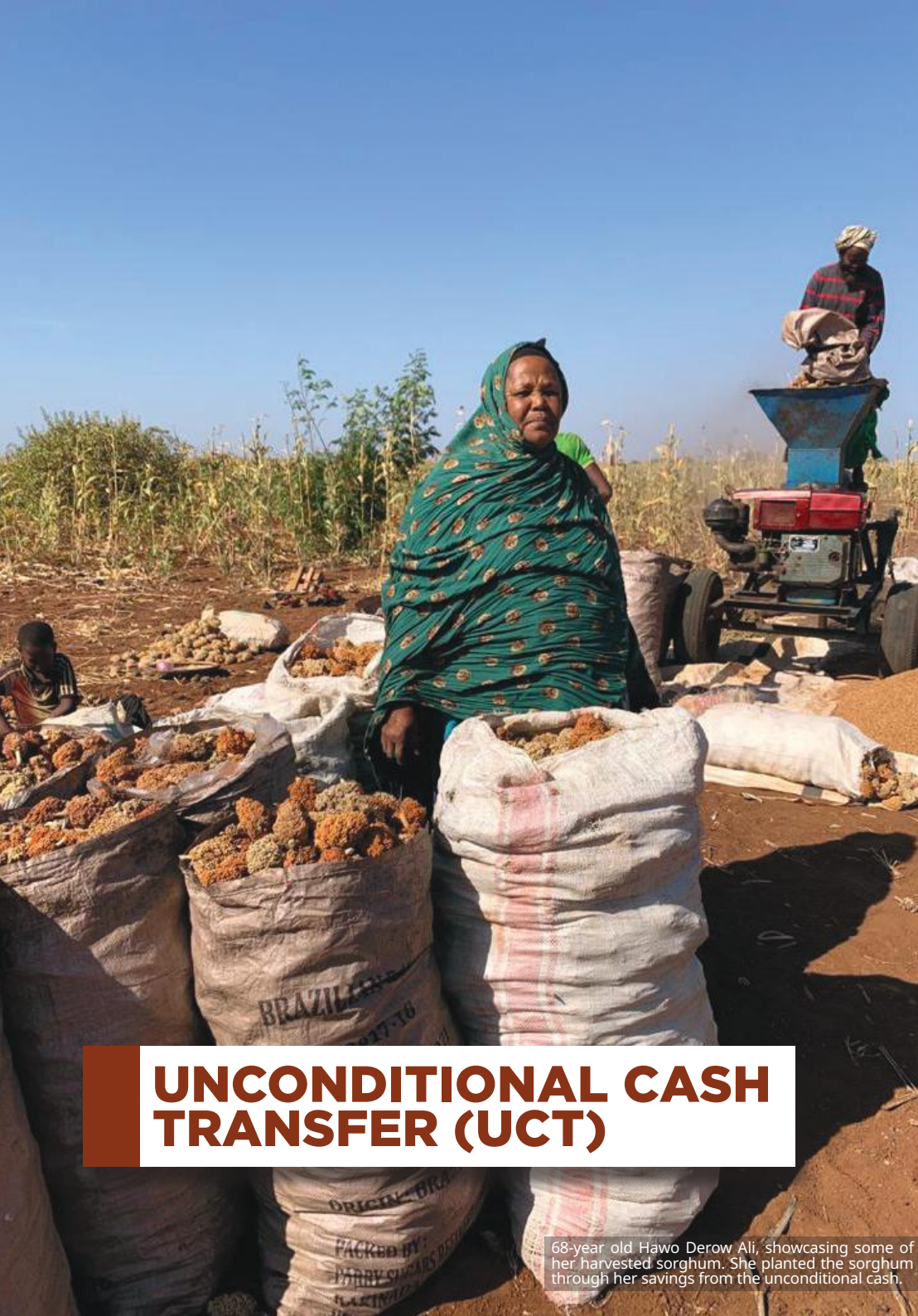
Unconditional Cash Transfer (UCT)

Through unconditional cash transfer, the project reached **563** beneficiaries with **US\$300** for a period of three months. The cash was meant to help the very vulnerable households purchase basic needs for their households.

The **563** were selected from the **10** target villages around Qansadhere town.

*"I could no longer cultivate my farm due to old age and without an income generating activity, it was difficult to meet my basic needs and those of my children who were struggling with their families. I was selected as one of the beneficiaries for the unconditional cash where I was paid **US\$100** per month for three consecutive months. I saved **US\$30** every month for the three months. At the onset of the rainy season, I used the savings to hire casual workers to cultivate and plant for me sorghum, cowpeas and watermelon. I made a good harvest of 10 sacks of sorghum and 3 sacks of cowpeas. I sold part of the produce to cover some of my expenses and shared some with my needy family. The cash transfer improved my living condition not only for a short time but also gave me hope of a better future. I don't have to worry about what to eat, I have enough seeds and money for the next planting season."*

68-year-old Hawo Derow Ali



UNCONDITIONAL CASH TRANSFER (UCT)

68-year old Hawo Derow Ali, showcasing some of her harvested sorghum. She planted the sorghum through her savings from the unconditional cash.



Hawo Derow displaying her bumper harvest.



Technical Vocational Education and Training (TVET)

Skills development is an important component in resilience building hence the training in vocational skills. **60 youth** in groups of 20 were trained in dressmaking and tailoring, tie & dye, phone repair, electrical, and carpentry. The students were nominated from respective villages and then briefed on the available courses and support to be provided. The training was conducted in Baidoa given the lack of such institution at Qansadhere district. The students who completed their courses were provided with startup kit that comprised of equipment and materials that could help them be self-employed.

Lessons Learnt

- Training the youth relevant market skills allows them to be employed or self-employed.
- Upon completion of training, graduates received tool kit for the respective trade to start their own business.
- Skills development at TVET level is an important component in Somalia's education system and has a profound impact on enhancing employment and competitiveness.
- The TVET skills integrate on education and training hence promoting both general foundational skills as well as specific technical and vocational education.

"When I joined the TVET training on tailoring, I knew that this would enable me make a living after completing the course. I have gained alot from the tailoring course. I now have a sustainable income from tailoring. My family is comfortable as we now have a source of livelihood."

25-year-old Ahmed

TECHNICAL VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING (TVET)

Ahmed at his shop in Qansadhere. Training the youth relevant market skills allows them to be employed or self-employed.



Maryama showcasing one of her tie & dye materials. She was trained in tie & dye and is making a sustainable income from making such materials.



COMMUNITY ANIMAL HEALTH WORKERS (CAHWS)

Trained community animal health workers (CAHWs) improve quality of livestock through consistent monitoring and availability.

Community Animal Health Workers (CAHWs)

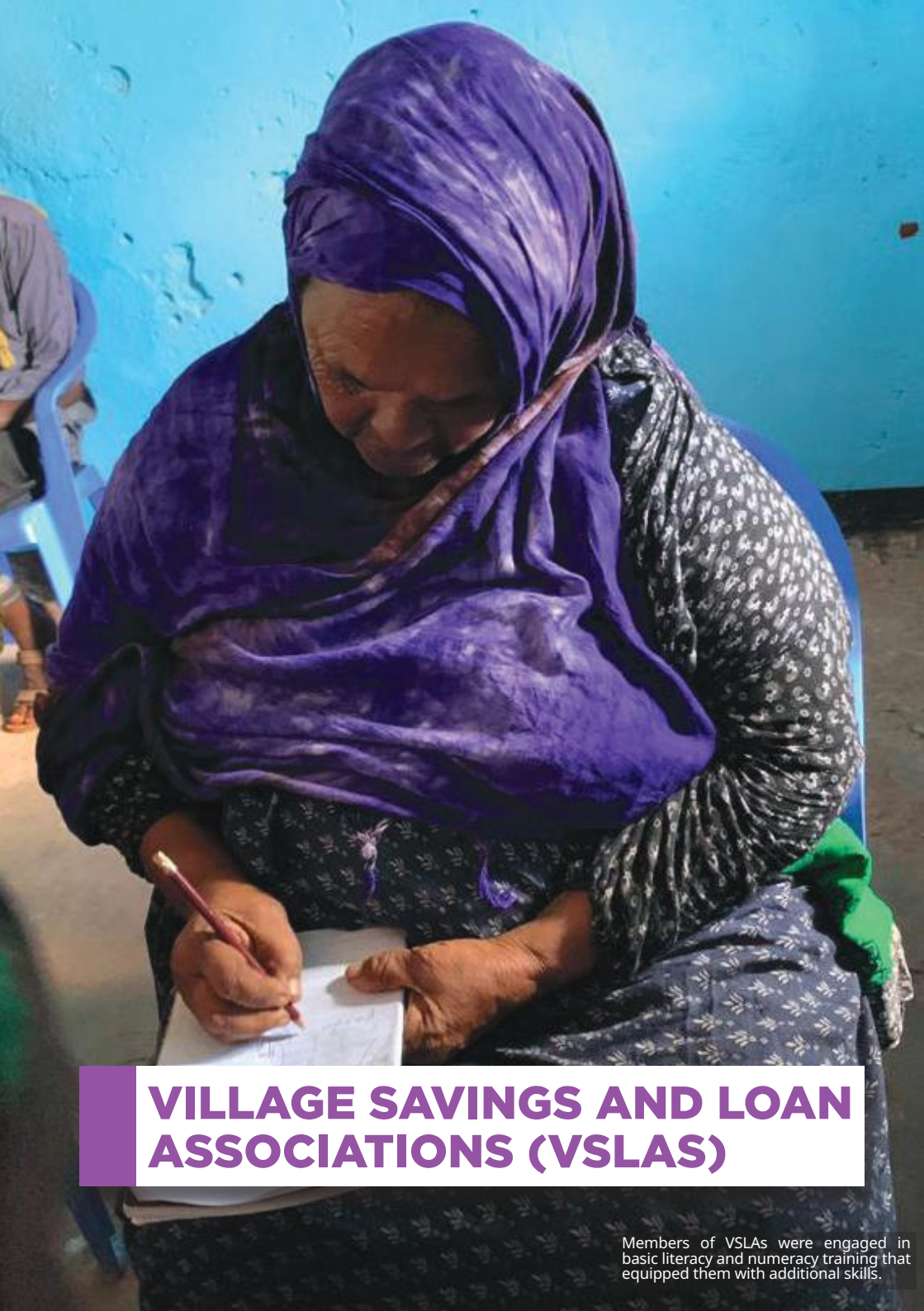
According to the district leadership in Qansadhere, there are a few people practicing informally as animal veterinarians. A decision was made to have these people and a few others trained to practice as trained Community Animal Health workers (CAHWs). The **33** identified participants were given the training for **21** days in disease identification, dosage and drug administration, disease surveillance and business skills and management. The trainees were kitted with basic equipment and animal medicine. Trained staff from the ministry of livestock, regularly follow up on their progress.

Lessons Learnt

- Trained CAHWs improve quality of livestock raised and produced through consistent monitoring and availability.
- The trained CAHWs play a crucial role in the supply of veterinary drugs for the prevention and treatment of livestock diseases.
- The trained CAHWs established their veterinary pharmacies in groups and were provided with Small Medium Enterprise (SME) start up grants.
- Supported existing pharmacies to meet required standards with CAHWs training and start up grants.



A trained community animal health worker (CAHW) at work. The CAHWs play a crucial role in the supply of veterinary drugs for prevention and treatment of livestock diseases.



VILLAGE SAVINGS AND LOAN ASSOCIATIONS (VSLAS)

Members of VSLAs were engaged in basic literacy and numeracy training that equipped them with additional skills.

Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLAs)

Community members particularly women were briefed about the village savings and loan models and encouraged to form such groups. **20 groups** with about **350 members** were formed and started saving and loaning amongst themselves. The members were trained on how to save, keep records and select their leaders. Lack of a good environment for the informal business to thrive limited the members from taking loans that they could utilize to establish small business ventures.

Most of the VSLA members also lacked basic numeracy and literacy skills. The members were engaged in a 3-month basic literacy and numeracy training to enable them follow up on their savings as well as work out their own calculations in their different trades.

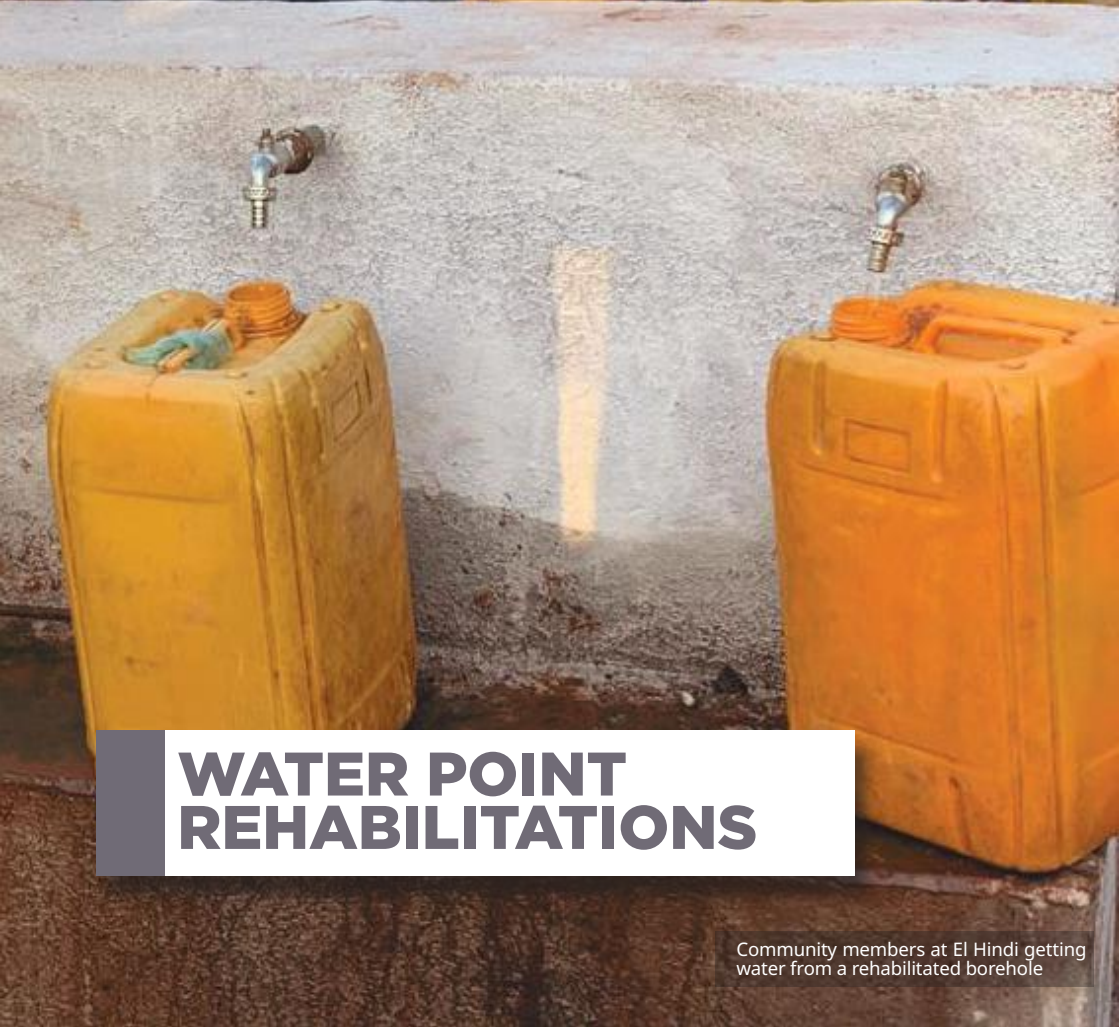
*"Since joining VSLA, I have been able to save **US\$10** per month and take a loan from the group as well. I have taken two loans so far from my group-Al-Amin. With the money, I renovated my shop and changed the goods I was selling to marketable ones like cosmetics and clothes. I am happy as the business is doing well. I can now repay my loan; I also have enough money to buy food for my family and pay school fees for my children. I feel free being able to do all these things on my own,"*
31-year old Maryamo Abdi Ibrahim

Lessons Learnt

- Women engaged in VSLAs feel empowered. The project has seen evidence and spoken with women who feel that they are gaining autonomy in their households and are able to make decisions for themselves.
- VSLA members report that they now can access funds to pay for essentials goods, services and emergencies. Members take up loans to start businesses, purchase clothing, seek health services, or educate their children.
- Through the VSLAs the members learnt about nutrition and health hence having an important role in keeping their families healthy.
- VSLAs are widely welcomed by communities and are cost effective to operate within the community with a lot of lucrative benefits including access to financial services without collateral security, timely access for funds and an increased respect from other community members.
- VSLAs have proven to be a value source of social capital as members work together to support each other.
- VSLAs approach provided households with sustainable availability of funds which supports the communities in becoming increasingly resilient to economic shocks and enables investment opportunities.
- VSLAs trained on a range of life skills such as basic literacy and numeracy skills, household financial affairs and risk management to allow for planning.
- Literacy training equips VSLAs with additional skills such as analyzing market potentials, building sound financial skills, securing resources and capital and problem solving.



The VSLA members carry out various activities to gain autonomy in their households.



WATER POINT REHABILITATIONS

Community members at El Hindi getting water from a rehabilitated borehole

Water Point Rehabilitations

Water points within the district have suffered many years of neglect due to limited access to humanitarian actors and lack of capacity by government to support them. ADRA assessed **6 boreholes** but only supported **two boreholes** in Ceel Barakow and Elhindi. Security concerns limited the support of the others. The rehabilitation in the two boreholes included construction of raised tanks, rehabilitations of generator rooms and kiosks, replacement of submersible pumps and reticulation systems, construction of animal troughs and provision of power supply generator. The two are currently serving the bulk of the community and animals from outside the town.

Saadiya Haji, 36-year-old mother of five children is happy due to the two boreholes that were rehabilitated in her area. ***"As a community we have clean water that is available all the time. The prices at the water kiosks are also cheaper than before the rehabilitation."***

Lessons Learnt

- Community members use water for household, agriculture and livestock consumption.
- Time spent to look for water is spent on other activities like focusing on their businesses, spending time with their children and participating in VSLAs.
- Availability of clean water leads to healthier and vibrant families.



Community members at El Hindi getting water from a rehabilitated borehole.



A VSLA member demonstrating what she has learnt at the basic numeracy and literacy class.
Back Cover: Trained TVET student earning an income through their tailoring skills



CONTACT

Email:
info@adrasom

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Website
www.adrasom.org



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