



"Changing Somalia. One Life at a Time..."

September/October 2015

Working Towards Improved Girls' Education in Somalia



'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.



Somalia once had a comprehensive education system that provided free and inclusive education to Somali children from pre-school to university. Years of conflict and political instability have devastated that system. Today, Somalia has one of the world's lowest enrolment rates for children of primary school age specially girls. The overall number of children in schools are very low, with girls being fewer than boys. The number of female students in universities is also very little compared to male students.

The traditional belief in the country doesn't give a priority for girls' education. Some parents believe that the end of girl's education is the home of her husband and not expect to see the benefits, so they better prioritize educating boys who they see as supportive, there is a Somali saying which states *"educated woman is educated society"*.

The challenges girls in schools face include lack of encouragement from the community, home and in school, early marriages is also another factor affecting education in Somalia. There is a commonly known saying which is 'at the end, educated girls become a professors at the kitchen' so that is a demoralization to girls.

To help girls in Somalia get proper education, ADRA is currently implementing a project—Educate Girls, End Poverty (EGEP), with funding from Department for International Development (DFID) in Somaliland from February 2013 to March 2017.

The Educate Girls, End Poverty project's purpose is to enroll more girls in school, inspire them to stay in school, and make sure they graduate school with the knowledge that enables them to break the cycle of poverty. The project will benefit 27,750 marginalized girls, aged 6 to 19, who hail from urban poor, rural, and internally displaced (IDP) populations. The project will also pay special attention to vulnerable, orphaned, and disabled girls. The project will work within primary, secondary, vocational, and non-traditional schools, and family life education centers.

The objective of the project is to improve the learning achievements of marginalized girls in Somalia by getting them to enroll and stay in school. The Educate Girls, End Poverty Project has targeted different groups mainly Teachers, Ministry of Education staff, Mentors and a network of women Advocacy groups.

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Building Resilience in Urban and Rural Household and Communities in Somaliland

This story was narrated by Mohamed Ahmed Abdi who is aged 35 and is married with 3 children whose main source of livelihood is farming. He lives in Hadhlay village in Gabiley district, 26 KM north of Gabiley town. The people who live in Hadhlay village are mainly Agro-pastoral i.e. they do farming and livestock rearing and 80% of the farms are rain-fed while 20% are irrigation farms and majority of them depend on livestock for instance they sell livestock to buy basic needs for their family and they grow food crops especially sorghum & maize for consumption at household level in the rain-fed farms and the total number of households in this village is 280 HHs. Mohamed has been farming for 15 years starting from the year 2000. He has a farm land of 15 hectares and he grows different types of fruits trees i.e. Orange, Guava, Papaya, Mango and Vegetables. He used to put a lot of effort on fruit trees especially orange and the fruits are harvested seasonally. He said "The vegetables require irrigation every day and the cost of fuel consumption is very high and the expected return after selling harvested crops is very low and sometimes it doesn't return the expense let alone profit that are why I do grow it very little and sometimes don't grow it at all".

After ADRA has started implementing the project Building Resilience in Urban and Rural Households and Communities in Gabiley (BRURHCIG) funded by Common Humanitarian Fund in Hadhlay village he became one of the beneficiaries and the owner of the Farmer Field School where farmers are being trained on good Agricultural Practices. He was given vegetable seeds, plastic pipes for irrigation, farm tools and a drip irrigation was installed in his farm to grow different varieties of vegetables and solar water pumping system was also installed in his farm to irrigate the crops.

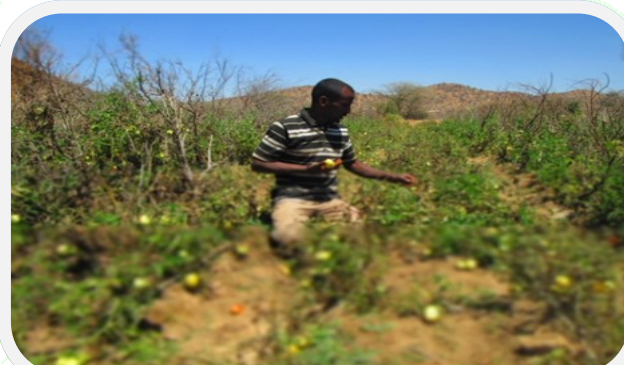
He narrated that he did a comparison on their traditional way of flood irrigation and the new system of farming that is drip irrigation and the impact of solar installation. He said "I did land preparation for planting that is 20 m width and 30 m length and drip lines was installed, of this I planted tomatoes on a land of 8m width and 30 m length and the rest I planted onions, Spinach, Lettuce and cabbage. For the portion planted on tomatoes the fuel consumed for 3 months was 10 liters and a total cost of USD 1 per liter that is USD 10 and expense for the causal labor that's is USD 35 for the three months period and I harvested 1,500 kgs of tomatoes and sold per kg at USD 0.5 for instance 1,500 *\$0.5 =USD 750 less expense used that is USD 45 Total profit gained from the harvested tomatoes only was USD 705.00 and that has motivated me to grow vegetable crops in large quintiles". He also said the other benefits gained from the drips is, it reduced the cost of fuel usage by 99%, it is not time consuming, water saving and saves energy to do other works because all it requires is the water tap to be opened and it will irrigate itself and reduction in the number of workers and that has really increased my income from the farm

On the other hand the beneficiary also said that the solar water pumping system has really supported him very much for instance it has totally reduced the total cost of fuel used for irrigation and he said he used to consume 90 liters of

fuel per month and sometimes even more that costs USD 100 and now he uses around 10 liter that is not used every month and sometimes no fuel usage for the whole month that really means the cost used to consume fuel will be an increment to his economy. He said "The solar water pumping system installed has also encouraged me to prepare an extra one and half (1 ½) hectare of land for growing vegetables and form a cooperative with two other farmers from the village so that we help each other in planting more cash crops and share profits.

He said he discovered that crops irrigated on solar water pumping have higher quality than crops irrigated on water pumping machine mainly because of the high pressure from the pump that weaken the roots of the tree hence affect growth of the tree. He proposed that, more farms to be installed solar water pumping systems and outside drips to reduce the high cost of fuel consumption which is a main challenge for all the farmers and frequent replacement of pumping machines that is demoralizing and many times make farmers suffer loss after putting all the effort and money on the farm and end result becoming less on the cost invested in the farm. He also said the yield production will definitely increase and farmers can provide sufficient fruits and vegetable to the whole of Somaliland instead of importing them from Ethiopia and Yemen.

Mohamed said "I would like to thank ADRA a sincere appreciation from my heart for the support provided to me that I have really noticed its positive impact within a short period of time and encouraged me to grow vegetables in large quantities, also I am grateful for the support provided to my other community members and also a special thanks to ADRA staffs who have worked with us in a good manner"



Promotion of Energy Services in Rural Somalia

In Somalia majority of people in rural areas depend on traditional forms of energy such as charcoal and firewood for cooking and heating which have a range of negative environmental and health consequences.

Somalia has the lowest consumption of modern forms of energy in Sub-Saharan Africa. The country has long relied on fuel wood and charcoal, and imported petroleum to meet its energy needs. Firewood and charcoal are the major sources of energy, accounting for the vast majority of the country's total energy consumption.

The Somaliland Energy Policy was officially launched on 8 December, 2010, after several years of work from the Adventist Development and Relief Agency Somalia (ADRA) in conjunction with the government of Somaliland. When drafting the policy, ADRA, in collaboration with the line ministry, trained and built the capacities of stakeholders in the energy sector of Somaliland, in both energy policy development and advocacy. The overall goal of the policy is to meet the energy needs of Somaliland in a cost-effective manner, promoting social and economic development, whilst increasing the use of sustainable energy resources with minimum environmental impacts. Through that initiative ADRA implemented the Somalia Energy and Livelihood Project (SELP) with funding from the European Union (EU). The project aim is to increase access to renewable energy sources and reduce poverty within the states of Puntland and Somaliland in northern Somalia.

ADRA Somalia has achieved much in the Renewable energy sector by being on the forefront in implementing different energy projects in the region such as the Powering Economic Diversification (PED) Project in 2001-2005 and was funded by the USAID, Energy Policy Formulation with funding from the European Union (EU) from January 2006 -2007 February, Powering Health services in Rural Somaliland Project was also implemented by ADRA With funding from ADRA International from 2007 to 2008, this project mainly involved the provision of Electrical energy through Installation of solar PV energy systems in 11 rural health clinics.

Recently ADRA implemented an energy project In Somaliland, Puntland and South central Somalia named Somalia Energy Transformation (SET) Project through funding from the European Union (EU). The Project was launched in March 2015 and will run up to 2017, The main aim of the project is to contribute to poverty alleviation, fragility reduction and climate change for rural and peri-urban people in Somalia.

Through the SET Project 100,000 households will have access to sustainable and affordable Energy services in Somaliland, Puntland and South central. This project will change the lives of Somali people in Somalia.

