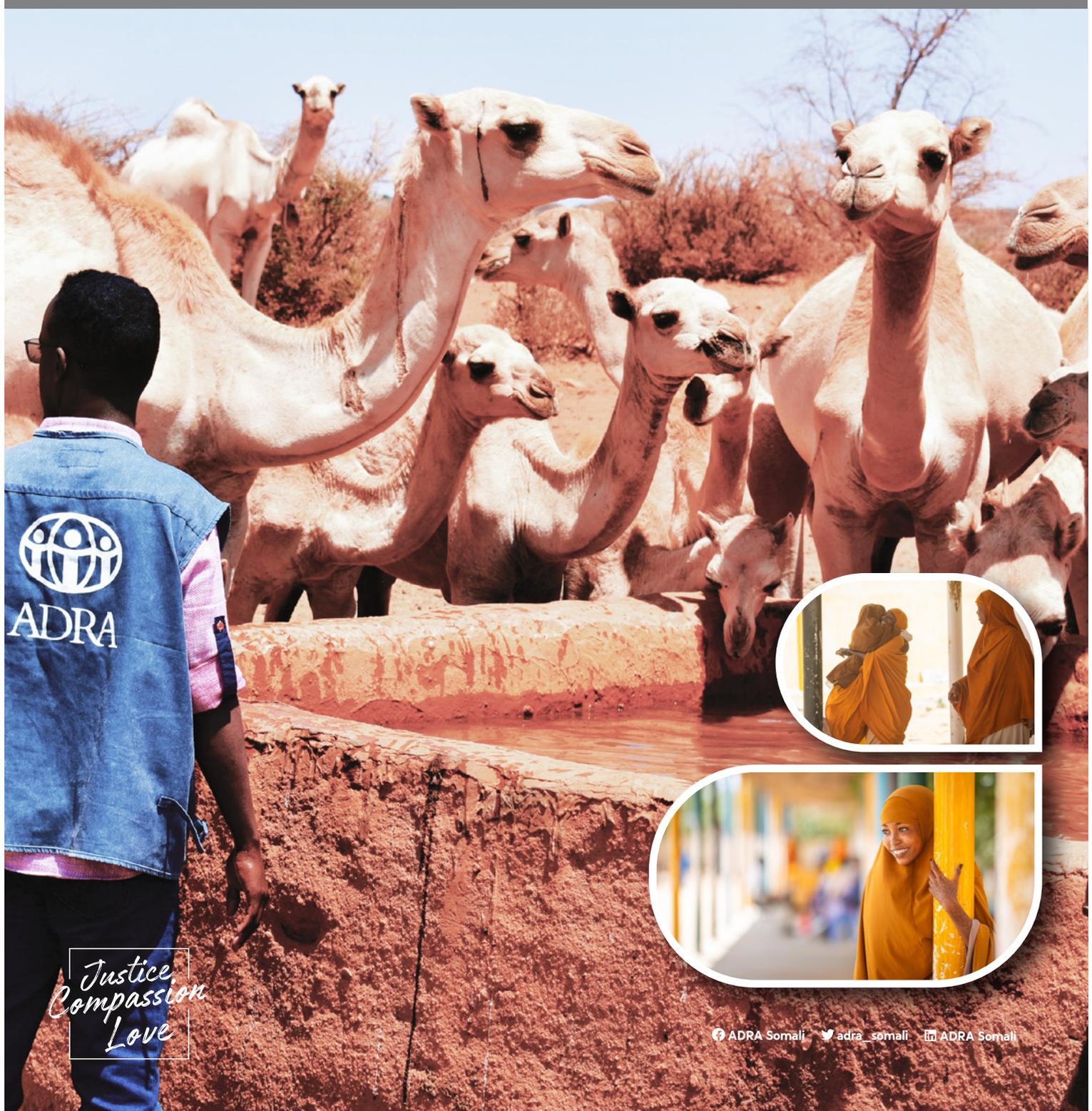


Raad Footprints



A BI-MONTHLY NEWSLETTER BY ADRA SOMALI

QUARTER ONE



*Justice
Compassion
Love*



Raad Footprints

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ADRA UNITE WITH VARIOUS PARTNERS TO TRANSFORM SOMALIA'S ECONOMY THROUGH CIRCULAR INNOVATION



ADRA Somalia, in collaboration with international and regional partners, recently hosted a landmark workshop for the ACTIVE Project (Advancing Circular Technologies for Infrastructure & Value-Chain Enhancement). This ambitious initiative brings a bold, future-forward vision into focus: one in which circular economy principles guide Somalia toward a more sustainable, self-reliant, and resilient future.

The workshop was attended by a diverse group of stakeholders representing ADRA Somalia, ADRA UK, ADRA Netherlands, READO, and Windle International. Each organization brought its unique perspective and expertise to the table, reflecting a shared understanding that transformational change in Somalia must be rooted in collaboration, innovation, and local ownership.

The ACTIVE Project is not just another development program; it represents a fundamental shift in how infrastructure and value chains are conceptualized, built, and sustained. In Somalia, the challenges are well-known and deeply entrenched. Decades of conflict, recurring climate shocks, limited infrastructure, and fragile supply chains have stifled economic progress and left many communities vulnerable. The ACTIVE Project seeks to break that cycle by introducing and scaling circular technologies solutions that close the loop on resource use, reduce waste, and create value from what was once discarded.

As the workshop opened, Jorge Silva, Country Director of ADRA Somalia, set the tone with a compelling call to action. Addressing the gathered partners, he underscored the urgency of adopting new approaches that can withstand the complexity of Somalia's challenges. "Today, we take a decisive step toward transforming Somalia's infrastructure and value chains by integrating circular technologies," Silva said. "Our shared goal is to foster sustainable development that benefits communities, the environment, and the economy."

His remarks resonated with the audience, many of whom have worked in Somalia for years and understand the limitations of linear development models that extract, consume, and discard. In contrast, the circular economy offers a regenerative approach that mirrors nature's own systems, where nothing is wasted, and every input serves a purpose. For Somalia, a country with constrained resources and mounting environmental pressures, this paradigm holds promise.

Following Jorge Silva's welcome, Howa Avan-Nomayo from ADRA UK delivered a keynote address that further elevated the conversation. Speaking passionately about the transformative potential of circular systems, he urged participants to view the ACTIVE Project not as a short-term fix but as a long-term investment in resilience. "Circular technologies are not just a trend they're a necessity for countries like Somalia, where resource scarcity and environmental challenges threaten long-term stability," he said. "By focusing on innovative infrastructure solutions and supply chain



resilience, we can unlock new economic opportunities while safeguarding our natural resources.”

Throughout the day, the workshop unfolded as a dynamic forum for learning, idea exchange, and strategic planning. Participants engaged in a series of facilitated discussions that explored the key pillars of the ACTIVE Project. These included sustainable infrastructure development, value-chain optimization, community engagement, capacity building, and the introduction of appropriate circular technologies.

Somalia’s geographic, cultural, and socio-political diversity demands solutions that are not only technically sound but also contextually relevant. Minyu Mugambi, Country Program Director at ADRA Somalia, spoke to this imperative with clarity and conviction. “In Somalia, we need to harness technologies that are adaptable, affordable, and environmentally sustainable,” he said. “That means promoting low-cost renewable energy systems, waste recycling initiatives, and resilient infrastructure design that can withstand the climate and socio-political challenges.”

For Minyu and others, the success of the ACTIVE Project hinges on its ability to empower Somali communities as both beneficiaries and co-creators. “Our approach must empower local engineers, technicians, and entrepreneurs to adopt and maintain circular technologies. This ensures sustainability beyond the project’s lifespan,” he added.

The workshop was not limited to theoretical discussions. Several sessions were dedicated to exploring practical applications of circular principles in the Somali context. Participants reviewed case studies from similar regions in East Africa and beyond, analyzing what has worked and what lessons can be adapted. Ideas flowed freely, ranging from the deployment of solar-powered water systems in arid rural areas, to the construction of modular housing units using recycled materials, to the establishment of decentralized recycling hubs in urban centers.

Each idea was grounded in the understanding that circular systems must serve both environmental and economic goals. They must create jobs, improve access to services, and strengthen the social fabric of communities. This was echoed by Khalif Kobane of Windle International, who emphasized the importance of inclusive infrastructure development. “In Somalia’s context, we need to develop infrastructure that encourages recycling centers and composting facilities that are accessible and sustainable,” he said. “Building these systems in partnership with local communities is essential.”

Throughout the discussions, a sense of possibility permeated the room. For many participants, the ACTIVE Project represents a turning point, a chance to move beyond reactive humanitarian responses and toward proactive development strategies that address root causes. While the challenges are undeniably complex, the workshop demonstrated that solutions are within reach when diverse actors come together with a shared purpose.

As Somalia looks to the future, the success of programs like ACTIVE will hinge on their ability to remain grounded in local realities while drawing on global best practices. The workshop provided a powerful example of what this balance can look like in action. It also reaffirmed the belief that Somalia, with its rich human capital and enduring spirit, can lead the way in pioneering sustainable, circular solutions on the African continent.

BUILDING SOMALIA'S FUTURE THROUGH EMPOWERMENT: HOW ADRA SOMALIA'S ASPIRE PROJECT HAS EMPOWERED WOMEN THROUGH TECHNICAL SKILLS IN SOMALIA

Born and raised in Jamaame Khadijo Hassan is a mother full of potential, hard work and belief. However, the increasing insecurity in her hometown forced her to be displaced in Kismayo ten years ago. As a mother of seven, Khadijo encountered significant challenges after her move, the vibrant community she had known was replaced by uncertainty and the struggle to find stability in Kismayo. Nevertheless, she was determined to create a better life for her children. With dreams of entrepreneurship in her heart, Khadijo turned into a familiar avenue of selling vegetables.

The vegetable selling business was a business tied to her roots, relying on the fresh produce that once flourished. But as the years rolled on, the previously reliable supply began to falter. "The delay in the arrival of new vegetables became a consistent challenge," she remembers, a hint of sorrow in her voice. Adverse market conditions, composed of delays and disruptions in transport, made it increasingly difficult to obtain fresh stock. "As I struggled to maintain my business, I realized I couldn't rely on a market that was becoming erratic," she explains. "The joy of selling vegetables slowly faded, and I had to quit.

In her moments of despair, fate intervened through the support of ADRA Somalia's Action to Strengthen Partnership for Inclusion, Resilience and Education (ASPIRE) Project. When she learned about the training programs offered by the ASPIRE Project, Khadijo felt a flicker of hope to reignite within her. She eagerly enrolled at the Kismayo Technical Institute, where she would acquire valuable skills in tailoring.

The six-month journey was transformative for Khadijo. The technical institute staff, particularly Mr. Bashir Abukar Maalim, the supervisor, played a pivotal role in her development. "Our aim at Kismayo Technical Institute is not just to teach skills, but also to empower individuals like Khadijo to change their lives," Mr. Bashir remarked. "We provide practical skills that lead to sustainable livelihoods, and Khadijo is a perfect example of that."

After completing her training, Khadijo was presented with a sewing machine by ADRA, along with the materials necessary to establish her business from home. "When I received the sewing machine and some clothing materials, it felt like a new beginning," she expressed with a smile. "I had everything I needed to start my own tailoring business."

Khadijo then began producing garments for children aged between 4 to 6 years old. The first items she created were simple Somali dresses but over time her skills improved allowing her to experiment with different styles and patterns. "Starting with just a few materials, I put all my heart into each piece



I made. I wanted to ensure that every child wearing my clothes felt special," Khadijo explained.

Through hard work and determination Khadijo found herself gradually building a successful business. "On my worst days, I make about 4 USD, but on good days, that can reach up to 10 USD," she reported, clearly proud of her accomplishments. These earnings provided her family with essential support. "This income has allowed me to take care of my children's needs, and it's a relief knowing I can provide for them," she added.



The home-based business model allowed Khadijo to balance her responsibilities as a mother while pursuing her aspirations. "I can work at home, which is essential for me as I have little kids who need my attention," she noted, reflecting on how the business provided not only financial stability but also the comfort of being present for her children as they grew.

As her tailoring business began to flourish, the support from her community in Kismayo became increasingly significant. "My community has been incredibly supportive; they trust my work, and I am proud to provide a service that they need," she said. Her reputation started to grow, and it was clear that Khadijo was on a path towards becoming a recognized tailor in the area.

Khadijo envisioned greater growth for her business and dreamed of making it more prominent in the community. "In the future, I look forward to expanding my business," she declared with determination. "I want to have several machines and train as many people as I

can, so they, too, can believe in their skills and create a better life for themselves."

Khadijo Hassan's journey is a testament to the extraordinary power of resilience, education, and determination. Through the skills she acquired and the support from organizations like ADRA Somalia and Kismayo Technical Institute, she not only overcomes personal challenges but also shapes the narrative of her community. Her sewing machine is more than just a tool; it embodies her renewed spirit and her unwavering commitment to creating a better life for herself and her children.

ADRA SOMALIA BRINGS HOPE THROUGH EMERGENCY CASH ASSISTANCE AMIDST DROUGHTS



Shamis Shire, a resilient mother of seven. Raised in the verdant landscapes of Galaadi in eastern Ethiopia, her life transformed dramatically when the relentless grip of drought descended upon her homeland. As a pastoralist farmer, her identity was tied to her livestock. However, the merciless drought led to the loss of her animals, shattering her way of life and forcing her into displacement.

Shamis was once a proud owner of a thriving herd of goats and camels that grazed freely in the lush pastures of her homeland. As a pastoralist, her life revolved around the rhythms of nature. Each dawn brought the promise of fresh milk, and many source of meat. But as climate change wreaked havoc on her world, the rains became sporadic and the rivers dried

up. The land that once provided sustenance for her animals and family became barren.

The loss of her livestock was not just the loss of animals; it was a profound blow to her identity and an end to her self-sufficiency. Without her livestock, Shamis found herself unable to provide for her children (three boys and four girls) who depended on her for everything. The grieving mother realized that the only option left was to leave her home in search of resources to support her family.

Shamis embarked on a treacherous journey to Dan Wadaag IDP Camp, hoping to find refuge and assistance. With her children in tow, she walked through arid deserts, navigating the harsh landscape that would test her resilience and will. Every step felt heavier as her worries for her children's future compounded with hunger pangs in their stomachs.

Upon arriving at the camp, Shamis was confronted with the stark reality of displacement; thousands of families shared the same plight. Life in the IDP camp was challenging. The scarcity of resources led to fierce competition among families, and many were left to fend for themselves without adequate food and water. However, for Shamis, the warmth of community and empathy buoyed her spirits.

Few days after her arrival at the IDP Camp Shamis learned about the Action to Stem Hunger in Drought-Ravaged Somalia (ASHID-2) Project, an emergency project implemented by ADRA Somalia aimed at providing support to families facing the dire consequences of drought and food insecurity. The implementation of the program brought vital relief to the camp, addressing the immediate needs of families like Shamis.

Through the ASHID-2 Project, Shamis received unconditional cash transfer assistance of \$80 for 8 months now out of the planned 10 months. This support allowed her to purchase food staples and clean water for her children, which their well-being depended upon. The funds revitalized her hope and made her feel better after a long duration of drought and famine.

"When the drought destroyed my livestock, I felt lost. I had always worked hard to provide for my children, but everything changed when our livestock died of hunger and drought, and we had to leave our home. Our journey to Dan Wadaag IDP Camp was filled with fear and uncertainty. When I heard about the ASHID-2 Project, I felt a glimmer of hope.



I received \$80 every month, which allowed us to buy food and clean water. For the first time in a long while, I could see my children smile again.” narrated an emotional Shamis

With these resources, she began to rewind her life back together. The \$80 was a blessing, enabling her to buy grains, dried beans, and cooking oil. For the first time in months, Shamis was able to prepare meals for her children without the sting of guilt gnawing at her heart. She felt empowered with the responsibility of nourishing her family, creating a sense of normalcy amid chaos.

Shamis embodies the resilience and strength of countless women around the globe surviving amidst extreme hardship. Through the invaluable cash assistance of the ASHID-2 Project, she transformed her life from despair to hope, from anguish to empowerment. She stands as a beacon of hope for her children inspiring others to find strength in shared stories and hurdles

THE IMPACT OF ADRA SOMALIA’S HYGIENE PROJECT IN GALKAYO.

Maryam, a mother engraved with hardship for years has turned to be a smiling mother full of satisfaction and joy. For the past decade, Maryam has called the Salama 2 camp home, as a mother of eight, her days were often filled with struggle to meet the basic needs of her family. Yet, despite her tireless efforts, the challenges of hygiene had long overshadowed her life, making everyday existence even more daunting.

Through the Lifesaving and Sustainable WASH Services to Crisis-affected Communities (LISS) project, Maryam’s life took a turn and all over she started to gain knowledge and understand the concept of hygiene and sanitation. Maryam received a hygiene kit composed of essential hygiene items. The kits allowed her family to have a cleaner living in good health and also instilled a sense of pride, transforming an environment that had long felt neglected.



Furthermore, ADRA Somalia distributed hygiene kits to 250 households within Salama 2 IDP camp. The attention to hygiene resonated deeply; it was more than just items; it was about restoring dignity and hope. After years of coping with limited resources, the arrival of these kits initiated a change both practical and emotional.

The simple act of maintaining hygiene began to reflect a newfound strength within her. This change not only affected her family but rippled through the camp, with other mothers observing the positive changes and stepping forward to share ideas and strategies for hygiene and sanitation.



The dignity kits included items that empowered Maryam to manage her family's hygiene effectively, enabling her to teach her children about self-care and health. With these essentials, she was able to not only maintain cleanliness but also contribute to the well-being of the camp.

According to Maryam, what began as an external intervention evolved into a community-wide cultural shift towards maintaining hygiene. Maryam and her community members started engaging their children in using the hygiene kits and maintain

sanitation within themselves; it was an opportunity for them to connect with their inner self and understand the importance of hygiene and sanitation in a human's body. Gradually, many children learned to appreciate the value of maintaining hygiene, cultivating habits that would benefit them for years to come.

The LISS project was not merely about distributing hygiene kits but captivating attention to dignity and empowerment within crisis-affected populations. With the support, Maryam has nurtured a community environment where hygiene, sanitation and good health are valued, influencing a generation of children who will carry these lessons into their futures.

Through collective effort, freshly cleaned living spaces now coexist with aspirations for better health, united in a shared purpose among the camp's inhabitants. Today, as she stands among her children, Maryam not only sees a future illuminated by improved hygiene, but a community strengthened through shared experiences, determination, and the spirit of togetherness in the face of adversity. The journey was long, but the tides of change began to turn, marking the beginning of a new chapter for families like hers in Galkayo.

FINANCIAL INCLUSION AND GENDER EQUALITY AT THE HEART OF NEW E-WINS PROJECT IN SOMALIA.



A DRA Somalia convened a comprehensive project kickoff workshop for the much-anticipated Empowering Women Through Investment and Inclusion Networks in Somalia (e- WINS) project, marking the beginning of a collaborative journey aimed at fostering sustainable development and inclusive growth within Somali communities. The three-day kickoff workshop brought together local and international partners, with a goal to create a future where Somali women are not just participants in development but leading agents of change. The initiative is implemented by partners including ADRA Germany, READO, and Windle International, with each organization

bringing its own set of experiences, lessons, and passion to the table, not forgetting the funding unit by European Union in Somalia.

Somalia is a country full of rich cultural heritage and entrepreneurial spirit shaped by decades of conflict, inequality, and limited access to essential services. For Somali women in particular, the barriers to financial inclusion and participation in public life remain high. But the e-WINS project is designed to tackle these barriers head-on, through a multidimensional approach that includes economic empowerment, gender equality, community investment, and long-term capacity building.

The project's title, e-WINS, is more than an acronym. It signals a future in which women "win" not just through isolated programs but through systemic change. This change, as emphasized during the workshop, will be rooted in financial education, localized planning, and inclusive policies that resonate with community values and priorities.

The event opened with remarks from ADRA Somalia's Country Director, who welcomed the participants. Rami, from ADRA Germany, delivered a keynote speech that echoed across the room. His words captured both gravity and the opportunity of the moment. "ADRA's mission is rooted in partnership, empowerment, and innovation," Rami said. "This project embodies those principles. It's about working together with local communities, understanding their unique contexts, and co-creating solutions that are both practical and sustainable. We are here to support women in Somalia in building resilient systems that can withstand socio-economic challenges and foster inclusive growth."



For many in the room, Rami's words weren't just statements they were validation. They reflected years of advocacy for women's inclusion and financial autonomy, often in the face of great adversity. Now, through e-WINS, those aspirations were gaining structure, resources, and international support.

As the sessions progressed, the workshop transitioned into a series of deep dives, covering themes central to the project's design. These included financial literacy and planning, meal planning as a tool for household stability, gender equality and social inclusion (GEDSI), and effective communication and visibility strategies.

Kaibe Makasoma, ADRA Somalia's Project Technical Advisor, facilitated the financial planning and program guide session with a grounded tone. "While we have donors and international partners," he noted, "it is crucial that our local teams and community members understand and participate in financial planning. This fosters trust, enhances accountability, and ensures resources are used effectively."

His message resonated with all partners in attendance, many of whom have long championed greater financial transparency and ownership in community projects. Kaibe's approach emphasized demystifying financial systems turning budgets from intimidating spreadsheets into living tools for planning, reflection, and empowerment.

In a breakout discussion, Beatrice from READO brought in powerful insights from previous projects she had led in rural areas. "When communities are involved in managing resources," she explained, "they develop a sense of ownership that encourages sustainability long after project completion. You start



to see women not only managing household budgets but leading community savings groups, building credit cooperatives, and negotiating better outcomes for their families.”

Beatrice’s words were grounded in experience, and her optimism was contagious. She shared stories of Somali women who had, through small grants and training, become economic anchors in their villages running small businesses, sending their children to school, and inspiring others to follow suit. Her examples highlighted the central thesis of the e-WINS project, that empowerment is in the coming months, the partners will begin rolling out activities in targeted regions. These will include financial

literacy training, community investment planning, local mentorship programs for women entrepreneurs, and advocacy campaigns aimed at shifting social norms around gender roles and inclusion.

At the heart of all these activities there will be the belief that true empowerment starts with listening to women’s experiences, to community leaders, and to the rhythms of local life. Only then can projects like e-WINS become catalysts for real, lasting change.

The e-WINS project offers a timely reminder to many people in Somalia, that development is not about fixing people, but about walking beside them, amplifying their strengths, and supporting their journey toward dignity, equality, and prosperity.

The journey has begun, and it is led by women, for everyone!

■ A DECADE OF SERVICE IN HUMANITARIAN LOGISTICS

Ali Mohamed Shire is one of ADRA Somalia’s most dedicated and long-serving team members. Over the past decade, Ali has played a vital role in transforming the lives of vulnerable communities across Somalia. His journey from junior staff member in 2011 to now holding a senior position demonstrates his unwavering commitment and resilience. We had the opportunity to sit down with Ali at his office in Mogadishu, and here’s what he shared with us.



What gets you up in the morning?

I find the purpose of knowing that my work helps bring relief and hope to those in need. The opportunity to contribute to positive change motivates me every day.



What was your childhood dream?

As a child, I dreamed of becoming a doctor. I wanted to heal and serve people directly, making a tangible difference in their health and well-being since I witnessed the civil war and my goal was to make sure my community and people get good health within me.

How did you end up as a logistics officer?

Though my childhood dream was to be a doctor, I can say my path took a different turn. After joining ADRA Somalia when the office first reopened in South Central Somalia in September 2011, I did find myself drawn to the

operational side of humanitarian work. My dedication and interest in ensuring that humanitarian support reaches those in need led me to specialize in logistics and security.

Over the years, I worked through various projects like emergency responses, livelihoods, educations, and WASH which gave me the opportunity to gain valuable experience and eventually rise to my current role as a senior logistics and security officer.

What is your most memorable life experience?

My most memorable experience was during a major emergency response where I coordinated logistics under challenging conditions. Seeing the direct impact of my effort in providing support to communities in crisis left me with a lasting impression, reinforcing my commitment to humanitarian work.

What motivates you as a humanitarian?

I am motivated by the opportunity to serve vulnerable communities and to be part of a larger mission that alleviates suffering and promotes resilience.

What inspired you to become what you are today?

My desire to help others and my passion for service inspired me to pursue a career in humanitarian work. The chance to support communities in need and ensure humanitarian support reaches those who need it most drove me to dedicate my life to this field.

What is your biggest achievement as an ADRA Somalia staff?

My biggest achievement is the successful management and coordination of logistics for numerous projects over the years, ensuring that our support reaches remote and insecure areas efficiently and safely. My role has been vital in the success of ADRA Somalia's missions and programs.

What do you love about your job?

I love the sense of purpose and the impact my work has on people's lives. I appreciate teamwork, the challenges that push me to grow, and the opportunity to contribute to a noble cause serving humanity through logistics and security.

