



Somaliland : Water Infrastructure Development Program for Resilience (WIRD)

PROJECT BRIEF

OVERVIEW The Somaliland Ministry of Water Resources and CARE international in Somaliland have collaborated to implement the Water for Infrastructure Development for Resilience (WIRD) in Somaliland. The Program is funded by the African Development Bank Group for a three year period.

Somaliland Drought

Somaliland is located in one of the most disaster-prone regions of the world and is regularly faced with drought and conflict driven emergencies. Approximately 240,000 people were affected by the acute droughts in the western and coast regions of Somaliland in 2015-2017. Moreover, the Risk of Famine Technical Release issued by Food Security Nutritional Analysis Unit for Somalia (FSNAU) and Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWSNET) in February 2017, stated that 2.9 million people are currently facing Crisis and Emergency across Somalia. This drought has been classified as a hydrological drought due to the recent dry spells caused by the failed rain season. The recurring

droughts in Somaliland have had devastating consequences. Thousands face hunger, sickness, and complete financial ruin many were already struggling to cope with lack of food, water scarcity, and insufficient grazing lands for their livestock. The loss of livestock is a loss of the communities' ability to provide for themselves. CARE's development program staff have witnessed implementation challenges both at project and personal levels as the drought has adversely affected the livelihoods component of CARE's resilience program. The water supply remains a priority in drought prone regions , most of the surface water sources like Berkads and Balleys (earth dams) dried up in the dry season, and access to ground water source has dramatically decreased.

WIRD Project Implementation

The Water Infrastructure Development Program for Resilience in Somaliland aims to contribute a resilient and sustainable water and sanitation sector through providing water supply and sanitation infrastructure in high-priority drought-stricken areas of Somaliland coupled

"life without access to safe water within reasonable distance has been a long -time challenge for our community in Damasha village, especially for young girls and women who are primarily tasked with fetching water by their communities" -(Abdullahi Dahir, Damasha village head).

with capacity building provisions of training facilities and equipment and support to the water technical institute in Hargeisa. The ongoing water infrastructure activities took place in 28 sites and the overall coverage of the construction works is 100%. The water infrastructure development component is mainly constructing of haffir dams, rehabilitation/construction of 20 shallow-wells with the installation of solar powered water supply facilities for rural and pre-urban communities, including the rehabilitation of 5 boreholes, coupled with sanitation facilities. Hence, the program services reached about 187,500 people which is 75% of the WIDRP direct target population to be reached at the end of the program. The project is contributing to the mandate of the Ministry of Water Development of enhancing access to clean safe drinking water to the

kilometre to fetch water. The evaluation report also indicated that 81.25% of villages supported now fetch water from a water supply facilities (Kiosks) that is located less than half a kilometre distance from their houses after intervention. The WIDRP beneficiaries in 17 villages are also enjoying the benefits of the solar powered village lighting attached to their water supply facilities management system, the village lighting is aimed to generate a revenue that could cover the operation and maintenance of the water supply facilities, it is also boosted the growth of the local business and ensures the safety of children and girls in the village.

Better access to water help pastoralist cope with the climate change impact.

“shorter distance that my camels has to travel for water increases the productivity of my camels’ which means economic growth for me, it is also important that I am within my local socio-cultural structure and the environment that I know the best”.
By Khader Bade-Camel herder at Geedbalaadh

program target population.

The proposed intervention will enhance public health, strengthen resilience and raise the quality of life of the rural Somaliland population in general, benefitting an estimated 0.25 million people. Incorporation of the micro-irrigation and social conservation will revitalize and transform agriculture. The use of solar energy for water pumping and domestic use should drastically improve the quality of life. The program baseline report stated that over 83.3% of population of the program target villages had **to travel half-a kilometre and beyond to fetch water** before the intervention, while after interventions only 16.7% of population in supported villages said that they travel more than half

ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL IIMPACT MITIGATION

According to the Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) was conducted in March 2016, there are more positive environmental and social issues then negatives. Hence, the Environmental and Social Screening (ESS) report highlighted that in the construction phase of the project negative impacts will come from the engineering works including the risks associated with disturbance to top soil created by machineries and trucks as well as the increase of human and animal movements due to improved access including vegetation and tree loss in some cases mainly the sites that involves putting transmission pipeline underground. An Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP) was conducted in September 2017, which showcased that environmental and social impacts are site specific and have no significant irreversible detrimental effect., so the addressed mitigation measures are currently in good standing.

PUBLIC HYGIENE AND SANITATION

The main water sources in rural areas were open surface, water making them susceptible to all types of contaminations. Poor sanitation and hygiene practices of rural and peril-urban communities also increases the risk of water pollution, which in turn increases the transmission of pathogenic micro-organisms that are



Figure 1. Maathor of 3 Sainab collecting water from unprotected source, F2. Muna collecting water from a kiosks located close to users in Coel-sheikh village, F3. Khader watering his camels from water troughs in Geedbalaadh Borehole. Photo: ©@ Kamal Farah-CARE

Figure 4. Village based water technicians in practical plumbing training session at the Water Technical Institute Photo: C@Kamal Farah-CARE



commonly transmitted in contaminated fresh water. Hence, to combat this the WIDR program implementation team developed a Hygiene and Sanitation Promotion Concept Document, which set up a Hygiene and Sanitation Program Campaign implemented through a multiple communication channel and approaches. Initial steps in the Hygiene and Sanitation Campaign was to use the Community Led Sanitation (CLTs) approach, public camping on radio, massive distribution of IEC materials, working with 68 village based community hygiene and sanitation promoters.

More information on the success of this intervention?

- The rehabilitation of the 4 boreholes water supply facilities is completed in October 2018.
- Over 85% of 19 Mini-Water Systems construction and rehabilitation have been completed.
- WASH sector strategic goals of the NDPII Implementation and documentation is in good progress.
- The comprehensive study on haffir dams design is on going by CACG - France based consulting Firm.
- 15 village based water technicians completed 6 months vocational training at Water Technical Institute and returned to their bases.



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