



OXFAM IN SOMALIA AND SOMALILAND NEWSLETTER

Quarter Four, 2018

As 2018 comes to a close, we look at Oxfam and partners work during the past quarter. Drought retains a tight grip throughout many parts of the country and along with armed conflict dominates headlines.

2.6 million people remain displaced and 4.6 million in need of humanitarian assistance (OCHA). They are staggering figures, yet it's not all doom and gloom. Communities continue demonstrating immense resilience, technological innovations gather pace

and urban centres heave with activity. Whether it's talking to urban youth building up the local tech sector or women in remote areas advancing gender equality, there are many causes for optimism.

A heartfelt thankyou to all of our supporters throughout 2018, particularly the public, people we reach, partners and donors.

Photos : Dustin Barter/Oxfam

HUMANITARIAN PROGRAMME

Oxfam's humanitarian programme focuses primarily on water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), food security and protection in Sool and Sanaag regions of Somaliland and Puntland, where humanitarian needs are most acute. The programme is delivered in close partnership with Candlelight, HAVOYOCO and KAALO, with funding from ECHO and Oxfam affiliates.



Previously, we took water from the borehole. It takes one hour to get there. The borehole water is very salty and not good quality. The Oxfam water (from trucking) is healthy and clean. It was very difficult collecting water before because of the two hour round trip. It was safe, but walking in the sun was very harsh.



explains Halimo in relation to Oxfam's cash for water activities.



WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE (WASH)



Oxfam in Somalia is aiming to build community resilience against drought impacts, water borne disease outbreaks and conflict risks through sustained access to safe water supply, sanitation and public health services with specific attention to meeting the needs of women and children. The following are some highlights:

- Cash for water implemented in 18 villages and camps, ensuring 1,750 households receive minimum 40 litres per day.
- Two desalination units were installed in Ceelmidgan and Ceeldhab in October, addressing high saline water in the area, making it drinkable. Ten community members and two Ministry of Water staff were also trained in maintenance of the desalination units.
- Four solar-powered pumps for boreholes installed and four birkhads rehabilitated in Puntland, alongside broader hygiene promotion and community clean up initiatives.
- Community health volunteers trained in 18 locations and then delivered hygiene and health sessions reaching 1,440 households across the 18 locations. This included menstrual hygiene management, jerry can cleaning and other hygiene promotion.

EMERGENCY FOOD SECURITY & LIVELIHOODS



Livelihoods were and remain devastated by the ongoing drought, with few signs of recovery. Some rains have occurred, but most communities, particularly displaced communities, have very few livestock to take advantage

of the rains. Oxfam in Somalia is meeting emergency food security needs, while concurrently working towards recovery of livelihoods and long-term resilience building. The following are some of the key achievements:

- 3,495 households in Sool and Sanaag received US\$85 multipurpose cash grants that offer flexibility for households to meet basic needs.
- Distribution of 50kg of fodder for 2,000 households in Sool and Sanaag, providing a lifeline for malnourished animals. The fodder will also improve animals' milk production, thus contributing towards nutrition and income generation.

PROTECTION IN HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE



Oxfam in Somalia focuses on safe programming and community awareness to enhance safe and dignified access to humanitarian assistance. This includes mainstreaming of protection approaches across our humanitarian work, in addition to standalone activities. Highlights include:

- Community Protection Volunteers continued operations across 18 target locations, reaching 2,633 households, including 6,383 women, 2,574 men, 3,497 girls and 2,761 girls with community awareness activities.
- Publication of Eastern Somaliland Protection Briefing Note; highlighting key gender and protection issues. The briefing will be used for influencing with authorities and the humanitarian sector.

DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

Oxfam's development programme focuses primarily on women and youth around thematic areas of civic engagement, economic inclusion and access to justice, across Somaliland. The programme is delivered in close partnership with HAVOYOCO, Innovate Ventures, NAGAAD, SHAQODOON, SONYO and University of Hargeisa Legal Aid Clinic, with funding from the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs, European Union and Oxfam affiliates.

“It's very frustrating for me and other youth to be unemployed. Everyone expects us to grow up and provide for our family. If youth can't get a job and can't provide the family, we are not respected and not seen as adults.... I really appreciate that SHAQODOON does market research to look at gaps and needs in market, and then designs skills training to meet market demands. For me, I immediately got a job. It's not just me, nearly all of the graduates got jobs straight away.”

explains Aafi, a graduate from SHAQODOON's Hargabits Academy that delivers youth vocational training.



WORK IN PROGRESS PROJECT



Oxfam is working with partners to create a more enabling environment for youth employment, addressing areas such as youth skills development, small medium enterprise development and policy. Highlights include:

- Development and near finalisation of a youth internship policy submission to better link youth with internship opportunities, addressing a major gap between education and practical experience;
- 2018 Startup Accelerator event was held, where 10 youth groups pitched their ideas to investors and five were selected for startup funding.
- Over 30 students graduated from Hargabits academy, gaining new skills for an evolving economy, such as in graphic/web design, photography and more.
- Job Clinic meetings were held between youth, academics and potential employers, both private and public sector, involving over 200 youth and 19 different potential employers.

Talo Wadag seeks to improve women and youth involvement in decision-making, overcoming traditional exclusion, from the community level up to national parliament.

TALO WADAAG (DECISION SHARING) PROJECT

Considering over 70% of Somaliland's population is under the age of 30, this is a critical issue. Highlights include:

- NAGAAD-led influencing and campaigning for a 22% minimum women's quota in parliament, equating to three parliamentarians from each of Somaliland's six regions;
- Multiple trainings for youth on leadership skills, such as key values, approaches and how to engage diverse constituencies; and
- Two meetings between traditional elders and youth in Sool and Sanaag regions about the importance of women and youth in decision making. 20 elders participated, alongside 60 influential female and male youth leaders.

INFLUENCING AND RESEARCH

Oxfam, as part of the Somalia NGO Consortium delivered a debt cancellation event, calling for expedited, full debt cancellation. Attended by the Federal Government of Somalia, International Monetary Fund and the African Development Bank, alongside civil society, the workshop marks reinvigorated efforts by Oxfam and the SNC to achieve debt relief for Somalia, with a briefing paper outlining the way forward.

In partnership with NAGAAD, two key pieces of research are underway. The first focuses on better understanding the role of women, peace and security in Somaliland, with hopes that it will also give greater primacy to the role of women in peace building and conflict resolution. The second piece will examine the gender gap between women and men, focusing particularly on politics, economics and education. Both research pieces will be released in the first half of 2019.



Hindisa's story: Cash Lifelines in Somalia

"Before the cash grant, older people didn't eat much. We focused on the children. Many people could only eat rice. I used all of the cash grant on food, water and clothes... With the cash grant, we had enough money for older people to be able to eat properly,"

explains Hindisa Awale Kadiye, at Kra Sherka IDP camp, where her family seeks refuge after drought killed all of her family's livestock.

The intense 2016-2018 drought devastated already vulnerable communities throughout Somalia, killing tens of millions of livestock and displacing millions of people in

search of basic necessities, particularly in urban areas. As the primary source of income and where most pastoralists store their wealth, livestock are central to rural Somali lives. Nur Saleban Dama describes the devastation:

"Before the drought, we were living with our livestock near the border with Ethiopia. Everyone lost all their livestock. Many people were thinking of suicide. Our lives changed a lot."

In partnership with Candlelight, a vibrant Somaliland NGO, the multi purpose cash grants are a lifeline for communities with nothing.



OXFAM

www.oxfam.org/somalia
Ahmed Dhagax District, Hargeisa.
Ph. +252 523119