

**P1 SAFE CITY CELEBRATED**

AAS celebrated safe city campaign by holding a dialogue on the sexual violence and harassment

**P2 CLASS OF HOPE**

We sat on stone and used empty jerrycan as our desk. We had our class under the tree.

**P3 TRACTOR HOURS SUPPORT**

Last year I had only 3 tractor-hours, I knew I needed more hours but I couldn't afford

**P4 WELLS RESTORATION**

ActionAid began Agricultural Support Project in 2014 to restore collapsed wells

**act:onaid**

# Newsbrief

OCTOBER 2015



## Safe Cities Celebrated in Hargeisa

### The women in Hargeisa appealed to the government for safe city

To mark the Safe Cities campaign, ActionAid Somaliland in collaboration with its partner, WAAPO, held a dialogue on the sexual violence and harassment against women. It questioned the notion of urbanization that doesn't address the problems such as urban poverty and sexism, that prevails in every levels of society. The participants pointed out such problems exacerbates sexual violence in the urban spaces.

In Somaliland, most women, especially poor, who live in the cities and towns often face threats from the

men on the street. The threats are eminent in the towns of Somaliland because of poor services and infrastructure - lack of streetlights, insecure public transport and inadequate toilets in public place.

The harassment is widespread in the country however it is worse in the market area. Moreover, the poor communities lack resources and confidence to pursue their cases in the formal legal system. As a result, many gender based violence go unreported.

Violence against women in Somaliland includes - rape, domestic violence etc. Such incidents are on the rise in the urban areas, and

women have been the victim of rape and sexual assault regardless of their age.

The women in the safe city campaign appealed to the Government of Somaliland for: Freedom from violence and harassment including the fear of violence on the streets, Safe public spaces for everyone, especially for the most excluded women and girls, Access to water and sanitation, electricity, transportation, education, health services and other public amenities, Freedom from sexual harassment and abuse in the workplace, and Systems and structures for all inhabitants to enjoy social, economic, cultural and political life.

## Class of hope

Mukhtar (11) is a second grader student in Oromo Primary School near Hargeisa. Until November 2014, he used to have his class under the tree in open air. "We sat on stone and used empty jerry-can as our desk. It used to be very hot and windy when the school didn't have proper building and furniture", recalls Mukhtar.

The school didn't have a conducive environment for learning due to lack of shelter. As a result, the students skipped school days when the weather got extreme, thereby impacting attendance.

Students stored their stone at their relatives residence near the school and pick it on their way to school. It was very common that they injured themselves, especially the young ones.

"Recurrent conflicts over the stone were frequent. One started to quarrel if someone sat on their stone and often they ended up in a fight", says Mukhtar.

Now the students in Oromo have a proper class



Mukhtar in his newly build classroom

room with required amenities. ActionAid constructed 2 classrooms for Oromo School and furnished with blackboard, desk and chair and office furniture. ActionAid also installed tank for drinking water and constructed 2 separate toilets for boys and girls.

ActionAid has constructed 11 classroom in 2014 LRP villages to contribute improving rights in schools to promote school enrolment and maintain retention rates.

## Programme Achievements

ActionAid's programme achievements in LRPs in Somaliland since March 2013



**74** shallow wells constructed  
**14** earth dams built  
**13** sand dams constructed  
**85** berkads rehabilitated



**3,330** participants (male/female) trained on agriculture techniques  
**72** farmers (male/female) trained on water management



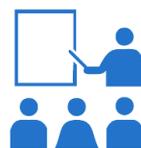
**240** wire gabions  
**1,200 sqm** elephant grass planted for retaining soil fertility  
**2,400m** contour lines constructed



**10,600** women trained on entrepreneurship, book-keeping and business management  
**3,515** women has access to revolving fund to start small business



**72** water pumps  
**7,200m** pipelines  
**613** sprayer pumps distributed



**1,500** men and women gained knowledge on civic education and they passed on to 4500 in the community  
**7,000** women have increased their political ambitions



**9,000hr** machine support for  
**10,970** households have been benefitted with the support

**54** grassroots women's coalitions have increased their capacity skill on leadership and advocacy



*Ahmed heaping the dried corn stalks*

## Tractor hours for food security

A farmer narrates how tractor hour increased his harvest

“My wife prepares foods from sorghum and corn. We have abundant supply of food for our family. My kids are much healthier”, tells Ahmed Abdi Ali, a small holder farmer in Allaybaday.

Ahmed had an increased yield in 2014 because he used additional tractor hours to till his farmland. Ahmed had always been worried about insufficient harvest. “Last year I had only 3 tractor-hours, I knew I needed more hours but I couldn’t afford”. As a result of insufficient tillage he harvested just 10 sacks of sorghum and corn. The quantity was hardly sufficient to feed his family for a few months.

In July 2014, Ahmed received four tractor-hours support from ActionAid and he added another two himself. Doubling the tractor hours had a substantial impact on his harvest. He adds, “I harvested 30 sacks of sorghum and corn. Thanks to additional tractor hours, it made a huge impact on the final harvest.”.

A sack of sorghum or corn is equivalent to 50 kg which fetches 20 USD in the market.

Ahmed donated 3 sacks of produce to his needy relatives. “I have 20 sacks in reserve for family consumption and I sold 7”, Ahmed proudly shares. Ahmed has enough harvest to feed his family throughout the year. The valuation of his entire harvest in 2014 was around 600 USD.

Tractor-hours is a livelihood support programme of ActionAid Somaliland for poor smallholder farmers in Marodeejix and Gabeily Regions for tilling their farms. In order to help farmers prepare the land for food production, ActionAid provided 9,000 tractor-hours to around 4500 vulnerable and poor smallholder farmers in 2014.

## Briefs

### Study on Impact of Climate Change on Agriculture

The impact of climate change on the agro-pastoral communities in Somaliland has been felt through unusual recurrence of droughts, frequent flash floods, appearance of invasive and exotic plant species, increasing land degradation and declining crop and livestock productivity. To identify the extent that climate variability has influenced production, ActionAid conducted a study on impact of climate change on agriculture in December 2014. The objective of the study was to build the resilience of the peasant farmers to adapt mitigation strategies and to synergise government’s effort on policy formulation on climate change. Somaliland lacks policies and strategies to combat effects of climate change. The research highlighted the effects of climate change in Somaliland context and knowledge and information sharing capability among the stakeholders in the region. The full report can be downloaded from ActionAid website.

### GIS for projects

ActionAid Somaliland has been exploiting new technologies for data collection, monitoring and evaluation. The organization has recently adopted Geographic Information System (GIS) to spatially locate the project areas for analysis and robust planning. Communication Inspirator has been providing in-house training since July 2015 based on LRP village data. The participants have been using Google Earth, QGIS and smart phones for the purpose. Since last year, ActionAid has been using mobile data collection system for regular data gathering and surveys.



*Ileye hopes to harvest mango for the first time*

## Renovated wells bring change

Dry river in Somaliland can break the banks during the rainy season, sweeping away the wells and infrastructures built at the bank. It is common plight of the farmers in the river valley.

“I must have repaired the well for more than ten times and every time flood destroyed it”, says Mohamed Yusuf Ileye, a farmer from Darasalam (LRP3). Constructing the well with the use of steel and concrete can be very expensive for most of the farmers. Thus, the poorly build wells are susceptible

to reoccurring flood.

With the aim to restore the existing wells which was collapsed, ActionAid in support of Italian Cooperation Project, began Agricultural Support Project in 2014. The project plans to construct 67 shallow wells, 35 earth dams and 15 sand dams on water prone areas in Marodijeh and Gabiley Regions identified in cooperation with local communities.

The beneficiary farmers excavate the collapsed well and ActionAid support with construction material, water pump and 100 meter PVC pipe. The new structure is reinforced with concrete rings and covered by concrete slab. The new structures ensure beneficiary farmers supply of water for irrigation throughout the year.

“We also use water for household needs. Even my neighbours and relatives come to fetch water”, tells Ileye as he prepares to water his fruit trees, which stands as a green oasis against desert backdrop. Now, Ileye saves significant amount of money which otherwise would have been spent on renovation. Last year he made 500 USD by selling his harvest in the market. “The shallow well has dramatically changed my life. I have better harvest.”.

## Entrepreneurial skills for girls

ActionAid Somaliland has provided a training on catering, heena art and hairdressing to 24 girls in Local Rights Programme (LRP3) to enhance their skills and knowledge. The training encouraged the participants to engage in income generating activities. The trainees were mostly either school drop outs or the ones whose parents could not afford to send them school.

Women communities in most of the LRPs in Somaliland lack opportunities for income generation. They



*Participants display their culinary skills*

often face social isolation and stigmatisation. Therefore, empowering women to participate in income generating activity is one of the long-term strategies of ActionAid.

The training boosted their self-confidence. All the participants envisage to become economically self-sufficient and independent, thereby enabling them to come out of poverty. Their economic self-sufficiency will also help them support their family needs.

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