



SOMALIA EXTERNAL UPDATE

OXFAM

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OXFAM'S WORK IN SOMALIA

Oxfam has worked with local Somali organizations to implement projects in Somalia for over 40 years. Although famine is no longer affecting Somalia, approximately 2.12 million are still in need of humanitarian assistance. Oxfam is working through local partners to provide water and sanitation, emergency food security and livelihoods, and nutrition interventions to those affected by conflict and drought.



Affected families wading through flooded streets in Beletweyn, Hiran

KEY HIGHLIGHTS IN SEPTEMBER

- Heavy rains in and around Beletweyn town from 27th - 29th September 2012 resulted in unprecedented floods after the already swollen Shabelle River to burst its banks
- 55 people are reported dead, about 48,000 displaced and 4,000 animals drowned
- On 5th September, a suspected AWD/cholera outbreak was reported in Hosingo village in Afmadow district. Between 5th and 27th September, 193 cases were recorded in Lower Juba, resulting in 32 deaths
- The cause of the breakout is still unknown but is attributed to the declining water levels in water pans and boreholes, especially in Honsingo
- Somalia National Parliament elected Hassan Shiekh Mohamud as the new president of Somalia on September 10, bringing to an end the transitional period in Somalia

Numbers Reached

EFSL	428,719
WASH	543,694
IMAM	251,670
Total	1,609,269

WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE (WASH)

The continued deterioration of the water and sanitation situation across Somalia compounded by the destruction of water supply installations, continuing conflict, and a general lack of maintenance renders access to safe water a significant problem. Poor and unpredictable rains over the past 5 years and continued displacement to urban centers and camps adds increasing pressure on an already overextended WASH infrastructure.

Oxfam provides essential support to those in need with closely-linked projects that address both water and sanitation and the problems of waterborne diseases in Somalia. We help to build sustainable water and sanitation infrastructure while ensuring access for the most vulnerable members of communities.

In September 2012, Oxfam rehabilitated one platform and constructed 80 water points and one water pump in Banadir. 2,500 strips of aqua tabs were distributed to displaced families in El Jaalle, Hiran. This is in response to the recent floods that hit Beletweyne.

Ten latrines were constructed in Gedo and 11 WASH committees were trained. In Middle Juba, hygiene promotion campaigns are underway in Doble and Diff town in response to the AWD and cholera outbreak in Hosingo. An estimated 2,100 people were reached.

The rehabilitation of weak points on river Juba embankments was completed in Lower Juba in order to control floods and protect assets of the local inhabitants of the area. This included a rehabilitation of spill way in Mugambo.

NUTRITION

Oxfam, in partnership with SAACID, operates nutrition sites across Mogadishu City; treating acutely malnourished children less than 5 years of age, providing nutrition counseling and supplementation to pregnant and lactating women, and immunization services.

The nutrition situation across most rural livelihood zones of Somalia showed continued improvement since December, mostly due to improved food access. This has resulted in decreased cases of acutely malnourished children from 323,000 in January 2012 to 236,000. The improved nutrition situation and reduced mortality rates are mostly attributable to increased milk availability and access to humanitarian support in the nutrition, food, and health sectors.

Nutrition supplies have ran out in the IMAM program in Hiraan, therefore no new admissions are being accepted.

EMERGENCY, FOOD SECURITY & LIVELIHOODS

In Somalia, 2.085 million people including populations in both rural and urban areas and including internally displaced persons (IDPs) are currently food insecure. This represents a decrease of the population in need by 17 % compared to the estimate from six months before. Despite the decrease of the population in need, the total remains among the worlds largest.

In September, through cash for work, 14 culverts were constructed in Lower and Middle Shabelle. 100 people worked on each catchment for 26 days and were paid \$3 per day. In Middle Juba, Oxfam supported preparation of land for farming through tractor hire and 1,875 farmers benefitted from this. They were also supported with seeds. In Lower Juba, 17,910 people received \$200 each in two cycles of cash relief. 95 hectares of land were cultivated in Middle Shebelle.

In Lower Shebelle, 279 households were assisted with land cultivation and seed distribution. To complement this, 20 people were trained in business management and it is expected that each of these participants will train members of their groups in business management skills

FROM THE FIELD

Cash relief is arguably the most suitable response to emergencies when practical and appropriate. It gives the beneficiaries greater choice and dignity, and benefits the economies into which they are injected. On the other hand, it can be argued that cash responses poses great security risks to the beneficiary and the organizations involved, not mentioning the risk of corruption and possible increase in inflation due to a sudden injection of cash into the markets.

Oxfam implemented the e-cash project in partnership with HIJRA and a mobile phone company to continue building on successes from the currently implemented scaled up cash transfer response. All selected beneficiaries received a free SIM card and a mobile handset with solar charger. E-cash services do not require beneficiaries to have bank accounts. All they need to do is register using their phone by dialing a number, selecting a language and following the instructions. Once registered, the beneficiary will receive digital funds through the mobile provider, which can be redeemed for conventional cash at an e-cash agent outlet or be used to buy goods using the e-cash from subscribed traders.

Geni Mohamed Nuur lives with her husband and their children in Hamar Jajab district in Mogadishu. She is unemployed and her husband, Mohamed, is a casual laborer within the city with no permanent source of income.

Geni is 25 years old and a mother of five; two daughters and three sons. Due to the current economic hardship, her family depends entirely on unpredictable support from her husband work, well-wishers and humanitarian aid. 'Sometimes we get food from the neighbors, but this support from Hijra is a rare opportunity, especially where I live' she said. 'I was selected to receive some money and was given registration number 58'.

At the time of registration, she did not have a phone. Apart from the money, she also received a free phone 'I did not have a way to communicate with my relatives, but now I can talk to them almost every day. I used the \$150 that I received from Hijra for food for my family as well as medicine and clothing. I also had some dept and the money helped me settle it'.



Gedi and her son after receiving funds at the E-cash agent
Photo Credit: HIJRA

For more information

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