SOMALIA DROUGHT & LIVELIHOODS RESPONSE PROJECT (2012-2013)

“This project aimed to improve the capacity of Somali authorities to respond to drought by contributing to improved coordination and management of IDP settlements in Mogadishu and other regions across Somalia, as well as to improve livelihoods of vulnerable IDPs.”

In 2012, Somalia saw a continued swelling in the number of internally displaced persons (IDPs), following the country’s worst drought in recent history which placed approximately 3.7 million people in dire need of humanitarian assistance.

In response to this, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) launched a Drought and Livelihoods Response Project, with the primary objective of improving the capacity of Somali authorities in coordination and management of IDP settlements in Mogadishu and other regions across Somalia, as well as improving livelihoods of vulnerable IDPs.

The Drought and Livelihoods Response project ran from March 2012 - March 2013.

Four components

- Livelihood assistance to ensure household food security and to increase opportunity for income generation;
- Provision of emergency health to drought affected IDPs through support to existing health care providers and strengthening of the referral system;
- Capacity building of the Disaster Management Agency (DMA) to increase its capacity to respond to future disaster;
- Support profiling of IDPs, voluntary returns of IDPs and their reintegration.

Always in partnership

Throughout planning and implementation, IOM worked closely with government officials, community elders, beneficiaries and members of host communities.

IOM IN ACTION

- In Mogadishu, 1,200 beneficiaries (840 women and 360 men) were given short-term employment through cash-for-work through waste management projects in four districts. In Baidoa district, 100 drought affected families were provided 1,120 goats and trained in animal husbandry;
- IOM distributed a total of 1,444 solar lanterns in Garowe, Mogadishu, Burao and Galkayo;
- In Somaliland, 20 female beneficiaries from Borama received business grants, while 100 beneficiaries in Burao (90 women and 10 men) benefited from cash-for-work projects, with 70 women receiving vocational and business skills training;
- In Puntland, 100 youth (50 women and 50 men) from Bosasso received vocational training in electricity, mobile phone repairing, computer skills and tailoring;
- IOM has improved access to water for drought affected pastoral communities in Garowe Puntland, by rehabilitating communal water berkets;
- IOM is one of the founding members of the Return Consortium which leads coordination and standard setting for the IDP returns to their places of origin.
IDPs and host communities

Intended to contribute to alleviation of suffering and improvement of livelihoods and to facilitate reintegration of returns, the project targeted IDPs and host communities whose vulnerability was compounded by low rains, low purchasing power, and an unstable supply of food.

2013 and 2014 priorities

As many of the vulnerable populations in Somalia are expected to exit emergency phase in coming years, IOM intends to shift its focus from life-saving assistance to transitional assistance towards durable solution.

Five areas of priorities for the coming years are:

Facilitating IDPs transition towards achieving durable solutions and strengthening community resilience for future shocks in areas where IDPs and refugees are returning;

Facilitating transition of urban IDPs towards realizing durable solutions through supporting resettlement and reintegration;

Assisting communities at risk of environmentally-induced displacement through reviving their livelihood assets and diversifying their income sources;

Increasing employment opportunities for urban youths at risk of illegal migration and provide vocational training to unskilled women in areas with high migration rate to diversify their household income sources;

Promoting technical capacity building of government agencies to effectively respond to the needs of migrants and mobile populations.

“I know what it means to be desperate to make ends meet. My life changed the moment I was selected as a beneficiary of IOM’s cash-for-work project in Mogadishu. I saved some of the money I made and used it to start up a small shop. With this small beginning, I am confident I can transform my family. I have been given a fresh start and hope in my life.”

Hajira Dahir Ibrahim, Jugweyn IDP Settlement, Bay Region

“I live here with my husband and four children. To support my family, I used to clean people’s homes from morning until late in the evening. Things got easier when I signed up for IOM’s cash-for-work project. I only work four hours a day, making the same amount of money I used to make before. This gives me time for my children.”

Khadijo Adan Hassan, Samaahir IDP Settlement, Hodan District

“I used the money I made from IOM’s cash-for-work project to buy my own sewing machine. I am happy now that I can earn a living and provide for my wife and six children in the long term. I am hoping to buy more sewing machines, and to employ other people.”

Omar Hassan Nur, Cilaanle IDP Settlement, Hodan District

IOM has really played a very important role in our community. Since they came here in 2012, they have helped many women, men and children returning from urban areas to re-establish their means of livelihood.”

Mr Hassan Moalim Ahmed, Baidoa’s District Commissioner

WE ASSIST:

• Mobile populations
• Government institutions

WITH THANKS TO OUR DONOR:

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From the People of Japan
Omotenashi to Tani Danshi no Jibun to