



Carruurteenna "our children"

UNICEF Somalia Newsletter

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Closer cooperation vital to ensure adequate water supply in Somalia

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UNICEF in its 2008 to 2010 programme aims to forge closer cooperation and co-ordination between key actors in the Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) sector to ensure that those without access to services in Somalia have them. To achieve these goals, UNICEF is working closely with international and local organizations, communities, water authorities and water boards, local self-help groups, the private sector, community-based organizations and NGOs.

Given that 71% of Somalis have no access to clean drinking water and 63% have no access to sanitary means of excreta disposal, UNICEF in its 2008 to 2010 programme aims to enhance the capacity of institutions and communities providing these services to enable them to expand to the unserved, schools and maternal and child health (MCH) centres.

Formation of public-private partnerships continues to be encouraged to enhance the governance capacity for water and sanitation projects in urban and rural set-



Somali girls wash their hands. Water is crucial for improved hygiene. Credit© UNICEF Somalia/2008

tings. Communities are also being involved in development and implementation of projects as well as their operation and maintenance. As part of capacity building efforts, UNICEF aims at setting up systems in water quality monitoring, data and information acquisition and surveying for institutions and administrations. Efforts will be directed at ensuring continued operation of existing water supply systems; repair of faulty ones and support and expansion of new ones. Schools, maternal and child health centres and WASH facilities will be the focus of efforts

to enhance behaviour change. Increased household latrine usage and expansion of sanitation coverage will be supported. Stronger emphasis will be placed on ensuring that WASH interventions are closely linked with Nutrition, Health and Education interventions through community-driven development initiatives and Child Health Days. In the latter, UNICEF and WHO are partnering with Somalis to protect children under five against preventable diseases, reduce malnutrition and to safeguard women against neonatal tetanus in child delivery.

UNICEF will continue to provide internally displaced persons with safe water and sanitary means of excreta disposal whenever possible. Support will focus on sustained operations of existing systems and rehabilitation of out-of-order ones to achieve quick results.

Activities will also address environmental sanitation and personal hygiene issues. Life-saving supplies will be pre-positioned in strategic locations to effectively respond to sudden population movements and acute watery diarrhoea outbreaks.

Water service provision benefits children, women and the whole community

Over the past seven years, Safia and her husband, Deria have been living in the IDP settlement of Jaamalaaye, located on the eastern edge of Berbera town in Northwest Somalia ('Somaliland'). Like many others they settled there after losing their livestock due to recurrent droughts in the nomadic areas of Sahil region.

The camp is located in a barren, sandy area which was used as an old waste disposal site for the town, before the municipality, in collaboration with an international organization cleaned it up for IDP settlement. Safia, her husband and four children presently live here in a two-room shack on a small plot of land fenced with

wooden posts linked to cactus tree branches and pieces of old roofing sheets.

Her husband works as a casual labourer in Berbera port, while she works in a nearby slaughterhouse. Their average combined earnings are less than \$200 per month, but compared to many others among the 500 families who live in the settlement, they are respected and regarded as one of the richest families in the community.

Unlike many of their neighbours, who were displaced from southern Somalia, they sometimes seek assistance from

their relatives who still remain in the nomadic areas.

Safia and her family have endured very harsh living conditions for the past seven years in Jaamalaaye IDP camp. Prior to UNICEF's establishment of a water supply point in the area, the nearest water point was two kilometres away. Residents did not have basic latrines, and were without the services of a health post or a maternal and child health centre. For the rest of the community, where more than 50 per cent have no formal income, life is even harsher.

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Governance, service delivery, behaviour change & emergency response are key WASH elements...

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Behaviour change — working to promote hygiene and sanitation in Bossaso

Two water sellers, Fatima and Haweeyo, living in Inji and Shabeelo IDP camps in Bossaso have resolved not to sell water to any person whose water container or jerrycan is unclean. Furthermore, a group of young women in the camps has agreed that no woman will be allowed to draw water from a source using an unclean jerrycan.

These demands and rules may appear harsh, but they have received strong support from younger community members and have led to almost all the women living in the camps taking vows to ensure that their jerrycans are maintained to a high standard of cleanliness. In so doing, they are able to draw water from nearby kiosks. Taking the issue a step further, some of these same women and community members have volunteered to collect garbage in the camps with the support of humanitarian agencies.

Awareness of ways to ensure that water for drinking is hygienic is increasing. Safio, a female inhabitant of the Shilkow IDP camp asserts that the use of water purification tablets (aquatabs) is important and necessary in every household in the camp. She says “the use of aquatab’s is as important as eating proper food—the more frequently we use the aquatab, the healthier IDPs remain”.

These women are promoting hygiene education as a result of attending Participatory Hygiene and Sanitation Transformation (PHAST) training and are in their own way ensuring that behaviour change messages are reaching their communities. This training was provided by a local NGO, SORSO, with UNICEF support. The increased effort to enhance hygiene indicates that



A family living in Bullo Deto IDP camp, Bossaso Northeast Somalia, ('Puntland') which has 1,300 households. Credit© UNICEF Somalia/2009/ZaidJurji.

the creative effort in communication has achieved success.

The use of poems is one way that SORSO is sharing hygiene messages and mobilizing volunteers to clean the IDP camps. One such poem reads—*“The shining dawn of the Sunday morning; the bright day of the arrival of SORSO and UNICEF support; the wide knowledge from the sanitation messages they offer; the Almighty will be pleased with all that. SORSO and UNICEF wake us up when our environment is littered with rubbish and stool; (they wake us up) where there is no proper usage of toilets; (they wake us up) where there has been no knowledge; no gathering; no effort ever made; UNICEF and SORSO woke us up when we were about to fall sick. Praise be to Allah”.*

IDPs are now composing more poems to emphasize what they have learnt. Adults in the camps are also passing on the knowledge to their children. Children are taught not to lick their dirty fingers and mothers are advised to ensure proper disposal of children’s faeces to avoid contaminating the environment.

Sahra, an old woman who stays in 100 BUSH IDP camp in Bossaso, confessed publicly that before attending the hygiene and sanitation transformation training, she did not care much about proper disposal of children’s faeces. She said previously, she would not cover food and flies were everywhere in her household. However, things have now changed since she started attending the training. She now keeps her compound clean and the population of flies has gone down significantly. She expresses her thanks to SORSO and UNICEF.

Water service delivery benefits the whole community

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Like many strong mothers in the camp, Safia has a story to tell. “I did not have grown up children who could help me fetch water. I would make two long trips daily - one in the morning and one in the afternoon to fetch water on my back from the nearest water kiosk in the town. I still feel backaches from those long trips”. Until recently, the 600 families that live in the camp were either carrying three to four plastic jerrycans of water from two kilometres away, or paying water tanker owners who charged 12,000 Somaliland shillings for a 200 litre drum of water (equivalent to \$1.80).

“Every year in the hot summer season, the children would come down with diarrhoea and I would have to take them to the nearest MCH or the main hospital in the town. I would come back home often very tired and without water,” says Safia. “I used to visit friends and relatives in other parts of Berbera where they had

access to clean piped water nearby and I would get angry that the water agency and the municipality had settled us in a place without supplies. However, I kept on living in the hope that one day our settlement would get access to the services”. Ultimately Safia’s and other residents of Jaamalaaye IDP camp attained their dream after implementation of a UNICEF-EC funded urban water project for Berbera that resulted in rehabilitation of the water supply system and facilitation of an efficient management system.

UNICEF worked with the Somaliland Ministry of Water and Mineral Resources, Municipality of Berbera, the Berbera Water Agency, CCG (a local NGO) and community leaders in Berbera town. Safe drinking water is now accessible to more people in Berbera following rehabilitation of the Dubar spring source and supply and distribution systems for Jaamalaaye. The institutional development component

is set to be completed by June 2009 and aims to support the management of the system through a public-private partnership approach. Alongside the project, UNICEF has supported construction of a maternal and child health (MCH) centre and school near the IDP settlement as part of its approach that promotes convergence of services in the community. Filled with joy, and with her four young children clinging to her sides, Safia said that with now adequate, affordable and safe water supply and the MCH centre and school serving the community, “a dream has come true”.

She further adds:

“When I used to visit the MCH centre in the town to have my children vaccinated or to get a check-up during pregnancy, I used to hear that UNICEF had supplied the vaccines and other medicines free for children and women. Now I know that UNICEF works for the benefit of the whole community members”.

200,000 people will benefit from Bossaso, Ba' ad Weyne, Merka and Baidoa water systems...

Emergency water supply moves from trucking to permanent systems

At the end of October 2007 a new wave of fighting erupted in Mogadishu, escalating the political uncertainty and insecurity already faced by many residents and forcing them to flee from Mogadishu and its surrounding to safer outlying areas. It is estimated that an unprecedented number of people – over 500,000- were displaced from their houses and their business within a very short period of time.

The largest portion of the displaced concentrated along the road from Mogadishu to Afgoye (now known as *the Afgoye Corridor*), in northern Mogadishu and in Daynille district, adding to the host communities, estimated at 100,000 people, already living in these outlying areas. This concentration of IDPs raised immediate humanitarian concern – with one of the key issues flagged being the urgency to ensure safe drinking water and adequate sanitation facilities for these populations.

UNICEF and its water, sanitation and hygiene partners responded immediately with priority given to providing short term emergency water supply to safeguard the most vulnerable - especially children and women. The most immediate way to ensure safe water supply was through water trucking.

Although effective, water trucking is an expensive strategy and, with the crisis carrying on far longer than expected, resources available to partners to sustain activities and cater for increased demands were soon depleted.

UNICEF, through its key donors, had to take increasing responsibility to finance WASH partner's trucking initiatives, sometimes at extremely short notice in order to avoid critical gaps in safe water provision to women and children. By August 2008 UNICEF was financing the trucking of 2.3 million litres of water per day to approximately 250,000 people.

While UNICEF's water supply interventions usually aim to meet the minimum standards in disaster response of 7.5 to 15 litres of water/person/per day, given the high degree of population movement, the high population density in the camps and the high cost of water trucking, the amount of water delivered is more realistically assessed to have ranged from 7 to 10 litres per day.

Water trucking was the only available response to provide sufficient quantities of safe drinking water in the face of this sudden onset emergency. However, as the conflict and insecurity continued unabated, realization dawned that there was need to develop a strategy to address the longer term water needs of the internally displaced persons and the host communities.

From August 2008 therefore, UNICEF, in consultation with key partners set up and began to implement a strategy to transition from exclusive water trucking to piped water delivery. From

September 2008 therefore, alongside the water trucking, UNICEF provided support to partners to rehabilitate existing or develop new water sources and rehabilitate and construct piped water supply systems, the objective being to eventually replacing trucking with piped water delivery.

To date UNICEF's partners have drilled one new well and rehabilitated three others, constructed 8.5 km of water piping network and constructed five water tanks to the benefit of over 150,000 IDPs living in Afgoye corridor and surrounding Daynille district. This represents a reduction in water trucking by approximately 60%. UNICEF and partners continue to work to improve piped water supply to the IDP camps and, barring any unforeseen crisis, expect to have completely phased out of water trucking in Afgoye corridor and



Women queuing for water supplied by a partner organization in Somalia. While trucking is useful in emergency contexts, UNICEF's policy emphasises setting up of permanent water supply systems. Credit© SDR0/2008

North Mogadishu by end of June 2009. UNICEF and partners



Women, children and men drawing piped water from the newly established water point in Lafoole camp in the Afgoye corridor. Credit© UNICEF Somalia/2009

have also constructed over 5,000 latrines, chlorinated water wells and conducted hygiene awareness campaigns with the aim of not only improving access to safe drinking water but also contributing to sustaining the good health and well-being of the IDPs. In the face of many challenges, and over periods of heightened insecurity which have limited access to implement and monitor ongoing interventions, UNICEF and partners have maintained a strong commitment to provide uninterrupted and sustainable safe drinking water and sanitation facilities to the populations displaced by the Mogadishu conflict. It is only through such continued and unwavering commitment by water, sanitation and hygiene partners and donors that UNICEF has been able to deliver on its core commitment to children in emergency – to ensure the availability of a minimum safe drinking water supply taking into account the privacy, dignity and security of women and girls.

Governance of water services expanded through Public-Private Partnerships

UNICEF's Urban Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) programme in Somalia is the result of several years of joint programme development with key donors to the country.

Urbanization is a clear trend in the country, and for UNICEF, which focuses on the well-being of children and women, support to urban water services in Somalia is crucial. Here, families live in closer proximity to each other than in rural areas, and insufficient access to water leads to a multitude of health problems especially in young children.

Following the prolonged state of civil unrest in Somalia, the delivery of urban water services has been disrupted and as a result urban residents have been unable to get access to regular and clean water at a fair price.

In order to enable a more sustainable delivery of urban water supply services, UNICEF has therefore, in addition to supporting the rehabilitation of deficient water supply infrastructure, fostered the establishment of improved management through public and private sector partnerships (PPPs).

This approach promotes the increasing involvement of the private sector in the provision of water supply services, which were traditionally provided by, and seen as a function of, the public sector.

The PPP approach entails strengthening the different and complementary roles and strengths of government (public oversight) and private sector (efficient management, operation and maintenance and investment in expansion of infrastructure) with UNICEF as a technical advisor and facilitator to the process.

UNICEF successfully pioneered the PPP approach for urban water systems in Somalia starting in 1997, and to date, through UNICEF support, 10 urban PPPs are in various stages of development/ and functionality across Somalia.

One example of these interventions is a USAID-funded project aimed at rehabilitating and expanding the Baidoa water supply system and establishing its management under PPP principles.

To facilitate this, from 2 to 11 February 2009, UNICEF organized a visit of the Baidoa Water Board to the Shaba and GUMCO Water Companies who are successfully managing the Borama and Bossaso water supply systems in Northwest Somalia ('Somaliland') and Northeast Somalia ('Puntland') respectively. The two latter projects were established with UNICEF support from USAID, the Netherlands Government and the EC.

The objective of this visit was to facilitate learning and sharing of experiences, as the process of establishing these urban PPPs continues.

It proved to be an important opportunity for members of the newly established Baidoa Water Board to meet the management teams of Shaba and GUMCO and learn first hand from them of the challenges and successes they have faced in a

period spanning more than a decade in managing the urban water supply systems in their respective regions.

During this visit, the team from Baidoa had the opportunity to gain a better understanding of the public private partnership approach as a sustainable model that gives better service to the consumers with financial return for the managers (Water Board/ Company).

The delegates also gained a greater knowledge on types of lease agreements, and some ideas on how to develop their own agreement in Baidoa in the absence of a government.



Baidoa water board delegates get a briefing on the operations of the Borama water system. Credit© UNICEF Somalia/2009

The members learned that if they want the project to succeed, they should separate the duties of the board and the management and that staff recruitment should be done on merit basis. They also gained a better understanding on consumer/supplier agreements and the process of house connections.

The board members were impressed by the efficient and good service the water companies are providing to customers in Borama and Bossaso, especially when compared to the individual Baidoa water supplies which are currently poorly managed.

The members were particularly interested to see that the water companies are able to buy supplies and equipment (including drilling rigs) and keep these stocks in store to maintain, rehabilitate and expand systems without being dependant on donor assistance.

The Baidoa delegates took keen interest in the visit and seemed ready to learn and replicate what they saw in their water supply. At the end of the visit, one of the participants said:

"I thought the PPP was a process through which UNICEF improved the supply of water to individuals who managed it on their own and set their own tariffs, but now I see it differently and realize how better to run a sustainable water system."

10 urban Public Private Partnership projects in various stages of development and functionality...

Key achievements of UNICEF's WASH programme in 2008

In 2008 the deteriorating humanitarian situation in Somalia brought the Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) services' situation to extremely low levels. This was caused by continued localised conflict, mass displacement, a prolonged dry season inadequately compensated by weak rains, and exacerbated by the economic crises (hyper-inflation, high petrol/food crisis), which prevented already impoverished communities from mobilizing traditional coping mechanisms.

UNICEF's programmes were therefore necessarily most focused on working with partners to respond to the escalating crisis, reaching an estimated 805,000 people nationwide through humanitarian interventions to provide safe water, sanitation facilities and hygiene promotion in this cholera-prone setting.

These *emergency preparedness and response* initiatives focused on ensuring delivery of safe water through rehabilitation, construction and equipping of strategic water sources (boreholes, rural water supply systems and shallow wells) as well as a massive interagency water trucking response to meet the critical needs of internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Afgoye and North Mogadishu.

Provision of sanitation services was also assured through the construction of latrines and provision of sanitation tools in IDP camps, temporary schools and maternal and child health facilities. Acute watery diarrhoea/cholera prevention and control was achieved through chlorination of wells, distribution of water purification and emergency water supplies (some of which were pre-positioned with regional partners to facilitate improved response) and hygiene promotion.

A primary achievement of the year was the prevention of what could have easily become a humanitarian catastrophe in terms of access to safe water and risk of outbreaks.

Despite the insecure and difficult operating environment, good progress was also made throughout Somalia against *longer-term targets* to strengthen governance and policy development and to increase access to sustainable water, sanitation and hygiene services in non-emergency settings – mainly Somaliland and Puntland.

In order to promote improvements in *Governance of Water and Sanitation*, UNICEF supported state authorities and local communities to fulfill their role in ensuring more sustainable delivery of water services.

This included support to authorities to develop and/or promote water policy in the different regions, develop their infrastructural and technical capacity (rehabilitation of office premises and development of water testing facilities) and lead occasions like World Water Day - key opportunities for advocacy.

At community level, water management committees were trained in management, cost recovery, operation and maintenance of rural water systems while the establishment of public private partnerships for the management of urban water supply continued to be fostered.

In addition, UNICEF continued to work to maintain, rehabilitate, construct and equip existing and new water sources – including shallow wells, water supply systems and boreholes - in order to increase access to safe drinking water for communities in rural settings and in strategic urban centres, including internally displaced persons facing critical needs.

School sanitation was supported through the improvement of latrines – with separated facilities for boys and girls - and hand washing facilities and the provision of sanitation tools to primary schools across Somalia. Sanitation facilities were also upgraded

in maternal and child health (MCH) centres.

Behaviour Change activities focused on improving hygiene and sanitation practices of school children and rural and urban communities through Children's Hygiene and Sanitation Training and Participatory Hygiene and Sanitation Transformation training. The first ever Global Hand Washing Day was also celebrated with activities in 90 schools in which over 20,000 children participated. Activities emphasised the importance of hand-washing with soap.



An improved shallow well under construction with EC funding in Middle Shabelle. Credit © UNICEF Somalia/2009

For more information on our programming or to learn how you can help, please contact us at:

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