



SomReP

SOMALIA RESILIENCE PROGRAM

-Impact Stories-

BETTER YIELDS FROM MODERN WAYS



Saida (with red hijab in picture above), is a 30 year old resident of Beerato village, Odweyne District. She is a mother of 4 children of which 2 are girls. Her family income is derived from farming and petty trade. In the year under review, she was selected as one of the beneficiaries from DFATs “Enhancing Resilience in Somalia” run by WV and was provided with sorghum, maize and vegetable seeds including labour support through tractor ploughing. When the field team enquired as to the support provided, this is what she said “we planted the seeds in our tractor ploughed farm land and waited for Allah to provide us enough rain. This year the rains were too low for our vegetable crops but the production of the other cereals was optimal”. She got sufficient produce from the sorghum and maize crop. “I collected a lot of animal feed from the sorghum stocks. It was really a blessing to see dual benefit from DFATs seed support.” With the money obtained from the sale of the surplus crop yield, household expenses were met as well as payment for her children’s educational expenses (school fees and uniform). She further said “with the money that I got from the sale of surplus crops, I bought additional important food stuff for my children like milk, beans, sugar”.

“I thank WV for their holistic support in the area of food security and income generation. I am planning to join the saving and credit groups formed through facilitation by WV in the coming year”.

FROM DEPENDENCY TO SELF RELIANCE



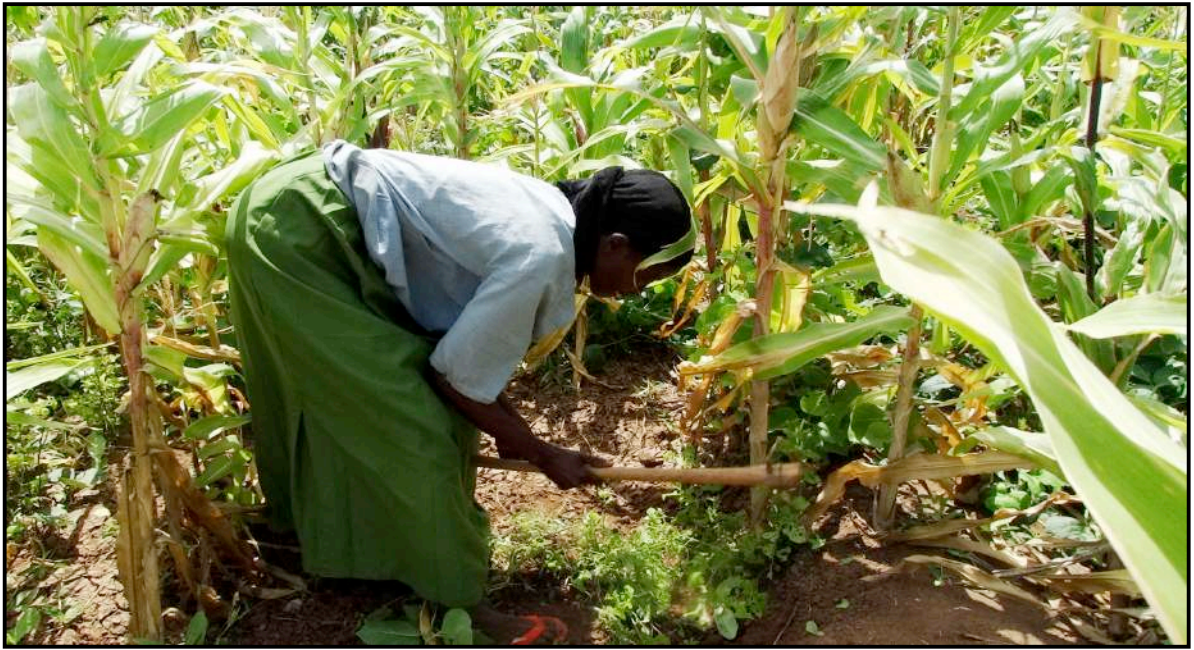
Amina Sharifow Abkow after receiving maize and cowpea seeds

Amina Sharifow Abkow of Marerey village in Afgoye district has been engaging in casual labour to meet her family's daily needs. The amount she earned was not enough to go beyond her immediate family needs. 'I used to earn less than 2 USD a day which was not enough to cover one meal a day, buy clothes, medicine and pay my children's fees. I also could not farm on my land as I lacked tools and seeds,' she says.

As part of the DFAT funded 'Enhancing Resilience in Somalia' project, Amina was selected as one of the beneficiaries who received seeds and farm tools. The project's bottom up approach not only allowed community members to define the problems in their community, but also the solutions. Distribution of farm tools and seeds was identified as one of the solutions to increase farm productivity and income from crop sale.

'I was very excited after receiving maize and cowpea seeds, and tools that enabled me to tend to my farm. I also received training on good farming practices and visiting a demonstration farm to see what we had learned in practice. I applied the practices I saw and my farm grew well enabling us to get a good harvest,' she explained.

With the improved farming practices, Amina had a good harvest from her farm and sold the surplus to provide for her family. 'My children and I are now enjoying the income generated from my farm. I have put aside some money for next season's farming inputs, repaid my debts and with the remaining amount am covering our daily food needs,' she concluded with a smile.



Amina Sharifow Abkow cultivating her farm at Marerey Village, Afgoye District

MAXIMIZING YIELDS



Batulo Yarow Abdulle at her farm in Anole village, Afgoye district

Batulo Yarow Abdulle used traditional farming practices passed down to her by her parents. While traditional farming practices and knowledge carry some value, combining that with modern farming techniques aided in the improvement of crop production. Batulo was among the farmers selected to participate in the Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) training provided to small-scale farmers after receiving good quality seeds and farming tools as part of implementation of resilience project by CED and Oxfam in partnership with funding partner DFAT. The project aimed at increasing the resilience of small-scale farmers to shocks that undermine their livelihoods.

During the GAP training, Batulo learnt modern farming methods including proper time for sowing, crop spacing, timely irrigation, pests and disease control and organic manuring. She started cultivating her farm and applied the modern farming techniques which later increased her harvest. After selling the harvested crops she earned enough money to contribute to her household's daily food needs.

'I did not have seeds, tools, and was unaware of good farming skills which led to an inadequate harvest thus I could not get income from sale of surplus harvest to support my family. But after the training and acquiring farm tools and seeds, my farm produced higher quantity yields and I generated income from sale of extra harvested crops. All these came after I learnt about irrigation, plant spacing, pest control and ways to prepare land for farming among other skills then applying these on my farm,' she said.

"The persistent challenges such as pests and diseases, low crop production that affected my ability to maximize my crop production was resolved as a result of the training. The difference in crop production is greatly visible because I have harvested more maize crops and sold some in the market. The money will allow me buy food and everything my family needs. I thank Oxfam and CED for the seeds and tools,' Batulo finished.



Batulo Yarow Abdulle participating in a group discussion during the GAP training



Batulo Yarow Abdulle applying the good agriculture practices in her farm at Anole Village, Afgoye District

ACCESS TO WATER AND MONEY FROM CANAL REHABILITATION



Fama Hussein Shiqow of Raqayle village at the canal rehabilitation site, Afgoye District

For many years poor families in Afgoye district resorted to casual labour when rains failed since they lacked alternative means such as irrigation facilities. The reduced numbers of people farming led to low food production in most villages. Fama Hussein Shiqow, 34-year-old mother of seven children, from Raqayle village was one of the farmers forced to abandon her farm and look for alternative means to provide for her family. She was one of the beneficiaries selected for canal rehabilitation through cash for work activities.

Gadud canal in Raqayle village was amongst the rehabilitated canals under the DFAT funded Resilience project. The activities involved digging, removal of debris and soil. Fama shared how positively the cash for work activity helped her stand on her feet by earning money through the canal rehabilitation and also getting irrigation for her farm. 'I worked on the canal rehabilitation for fifteen days earning 4 USD a day. I used the money to buy food, household items, clothes and medicine. I could never afford to buy milk and was now able to. The other important benefit is that the rehabilitated canal facilitated irrigation for my farm,' she said.

"With the irrigation, I look forward to a good harvest whose proceeds I will use to feed my family and sell the surplus. The money will increase our family income and I will be better able to support them. I thank CED and Oxfam for bringing this project to our village and I am hopeful for a good future,' she added.



Fama Hussein Shiqow engaging on cash for work canal rehabilitation