

SOMALIA: EFFECTIVE WASH IN A FRAGILE CONTEXT

BACKGROUND

In Somalia, any water source must be adapted for multi-use, as human, livestock, and farming needs are all in high demand.

Drilling new boreholes is often not an option due to the potential of harming the already degraded environment by drying up shallow ground water sources and rangeland moisture.

PROJECT SUMMARY

The project improved availability and access to water for both productive and domestic use in villages without any other source of water. Rather than rely on water trucking from nearby town wells, the project applied low and high technology—solar-powered pump and storm water harvesting—to make sustainable and safe local water sources a reality.

RESULTS

- Successful multi-use water model: human, livestock, farming applications
- 2 earth dams constructed, each with capacity of 36,000 litres
- Solar pumping system constructed Elevated tanks for domestic water use and drip irrigation farming
- Watering stations (taps for human consumption)
- Water was available even during a poor rainy season (Deyr rains, 2014)
- Trained and empowered water management committee to control use of the resource.

METHODOLOGY

Northern Somalia is chronically water deficient but also suffers flash floods due to ecosystem degradation, making “storm water harvesting” a key low-tech model for conserving water for farming, livestock, and household use. Earth dams were constructed since the water table in the area is too high and drilling would be expensive. Solar pumping system was connected and the communities are able to get water at very minimal cost with little operation and maintenance costs. The harvested water is pumped and used for drip irrigation, livestock watering and domestic use. The pump is set at the deepest end of the dam, so what is pumped to the tanks has completely filtered. Water for human consumption is reticulated through a pipeline and only drawn from the designated taps.

CHALLENGES

Full funding levels could not be meant by this one donor (OCHA), leaving hygiene promotion and awareness as a gap—though this is a WV Somalia strength area and critical for full impact. In future, WV Somalia will pursue complementary funding to ensure integrated WASH design.

CONCLUSIONS

- Multi-use WASH model is a must in Somalia.
- Adequate funding for each WASH project is essential to ensure full integration of sanitation and hygiene.
- Solar technology can be applied successfully for lower community cost and thus sustainability.

LESSONS LEARNED

- This approach also contributed to environmental protection by limiting flood damage.
- Silt trap at the mouth of the dam successfully filtered dirt and other aggregates.
- Water Management Committee’s role can be made even more sustainable by having clear by-laws approved and recorded with village mayors.

SOMALIA:

To achieve the vision of delivering water to every child, we must prioritize and innovate in fragile contexts like Somalia, where 7 in 10 people lack access to year-round safe water.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

- 62 new and rehabilitated wells and water points
- 42 Village WASH Committees formed and trained
- 153 sanitation facilities built
- 68 hand washing facilities built
- 5,425 hygiene kits distributed (NFIs)
- 24 trainings conducted on PHAST and 9 on CHAST.

KEY PARTNERSHIPS

- USAID/OFDA
- Government of Germany
- WFP
- OCHA
- Somalia WASH cluster & advocacy working group
- Local NGO implementing partners
- Regional Government Water Ministries
- District Commissioners in 6 key locations.



NUMBER OF PEOPLE REACHED

Water: 24,045 reached through shallow wells, boreholes, earth dams.

Sanitation: 30,530 reached through construction of latrines, solid waste pits.

Hygiene: 18,750 reached through hand-washing facilities, training in PHAST and CHAST, hygiene kits.