



# Summary of Learnings

## Brief: Haraad Reeb II Final Evaluation Report

**OVERVIEW** Aiming to contribute to resilience and drought recovery in Somaliland, the *Haraad Reeb (Quenching the Thirst)* project entered its second phase in October 2013. While Phase I focused on the more water-stressed eastern regions, Phase II expanded west to the Djibouti border, and focused more on addressing operations and maintenance (O&M) of water schemes to achieve sustainability. Key areas of intervention included improving water access, operation and maintenance, and sanitation and hygiene practice. The project reached 44 villages in total, including 580 households served directly and an estimated 17,940 additional households served indirectly.

### Project Activities

All project activities were developed and implemented in collaboration with the Ministry of Water Resources (MoWR), with a focus on O&M as identified during *Haraad Reeb I*.

#### Baseline assessment

A baseline assessment was conducted in January 2014 in the Togdheer and Sool regions to assess access to clean water, household consumption, water regulations, water management approaches, and water scheme functionality. Baseline data informed development of benchmarks for the project. Multiple tools were used, including surveys, key informant interviews, and focus group discussions. The

assessment found:

- The majority of existing water schemes (70 percent) were dysfunctional, which was attributed largely to reliance on external support for O&M.
- Most people got their water from unimproved sources.
- Only 11 percent of those surveyed had the daily water consumption they felt necessary.
- The National Water Act was not understood at the community level.
- Water scheme breakdowns were common and long-lasting, with little local capacity for repair.
- The majority of respondents reported they had a latrine and used it regularly, and washed their hands afterward.

#### Water infrastructure construction and repair

The main objective in infrastructure construction was to increase clean water access for rural communities. This was achieved through both strategic placement of water collection points, and distribution of water collection and storage materials (see Page 2). In total, 33 water supply points were constructed or improved.

The primary method used for sustainable financing of O&M was the inclusion of solar panels in the water scheme. Solar-powered water pumps create excess electricity, which is then provided to the community at a cost that allows for provision of spare parts and labor costs, thus keeping the water scheme providing services to the community.

### Establishment of Water Technology Institute

Rural water technicians existed in communities, as a remnant of the previous government, but they were undertrained and incapable of completing necessary repairs with the available resources.

To support regular O&M of village water schemes, a Water Technology Institute was founded in Hargeisa (Woqooyi Galbeed region). Participants received classroom instruction and practical training on pumping, mechanics and electricity, as required for O&M of rural water schemes. As of the end of Phase II (April 2016), 35 village-based water technicians had graduated from the program and begun operating in their respective villages. Payment is made to these technicians from the levies collected for electricity use.

- 177 water tanks
- 84 cartons of laundry soap
- 580 wheelbarrows (for transport)

These materials sometimes were used outside the home to safely transport water to fields, to water livestock or to truck water during shortages.

### Community-led total sanitation (CLTS)

The CLTS community mobilization activity was carried out in 30 villages throughout the target regions. In order to improve acceptance in the selected communities, 13 trainers and 90 community health promotors were trained in advance and adapted the model to local cultural settings.

# 13,200

# of households reached with protected sustainable water supply, including 47,000 women and girls

Program success has already been recognized, with recent graduates deployed in response to the El Niño droughts that effected western Somaliland. After deployment, they returned to their communities to continue regular O&M.

### Household water storage and transportation

To support household and village efforts to safely catch and store water, *Haraad Reeb* provided materials to households in 19 villages. Materials included:

- 580 wash basins
- 1,160 20-liter jerricans
- 580 60-liter barrels
- 660 120-liter drums

### Sanitation and hygiene behaviors

Community health promotors were trained in safe hygiene and sanitation practices, and were assisted in developing mobilization action plans. These plans included weekly education and cleaning campaigns at the village level. To help community health promotors disseminate information, pictorial booklets were created and distributed in the communities.

### Water system management

Using governance-into-functionality tools (GIFTs), which provide a “snapshot” of the governance and functionality of water and sanitation schemes, the project identified institutional issues as a more significant cause of water scheme failure than technical problems. Scheme management typically was tasked to water operators who had no oversight from any organization (government or otherwise), which resulted in misunderstandings about responsibility. Initial response was a feasibility study for improvement of scheme management of 16 systems. This led to development of the Rural Water Supply Community-Based Management Manual, which was supplemented by quarterly site visits to monitor progress of community-level management and provide further technical guidance.





### Rural Water Supply Community-Based Management Manual

After workshops were held across Somaliland to review existing community-level approaches to scheme management, the Rural Water Supply Community-Based Management Manual was developed to help operators and water point managers increase their knowledge in technical and financial management. The aim is to enable decentralization of water management to the lowest possible level. The manual was designed and validated by all water-sector stakeholders at a workshop in Hargeisa. After being shared with WASH cluster members and endorsed by the MoWR, 450 copies were disseminated at gatherings across the country. The local government, communities and the water facilities management unit signed agreements, formalizing the manual's use.

### Water Act functionality

With the first phase of *Haraad Reeb's* assessment finding that the existing Water Act was not implemented in rural communities, Phase II identified its dissemination as crucial to improving water access and use. An action plan was

developed with the MoWR that included sensitizing local authorities to the Act and improving the water management policy to achieve more functionality.

### Exchange visit

A learning exchange visit to Kenya for 10 MoWR officers was facilitated by *Haraad Reeb* and hosted by the Water Services Trust Fund of Kenya. As Kenya's North Eastern Province suffers from similar climactic difficulties, officers visited multiple successful water schemes and were introduced to sector functions and developments that have occurred in Kenya following 2002 reforms. Upon return to Somaliland, officers participated in a workshop to discuss the lessons learned from the exchange visit, and outline reform possibilities for the ministry.

### Drought preparedness planning

To alleviate the recurrent issues associated with drought in the region, *Haraad Reeb* facilitated capacity-building training for MoWR on emergency response delivery and coordination, helped communication among WASH-sector partners and ensured that early warning systems existed at

**“Haraad Reeb was a realistically designed project that demonstrated more than usual creativity is tackling a difficult problem...it will impact nearly the whole of the rural population in Somaliland through policy shifts.”**

**- Misheck Kirimi, project evaluator**

all levels. With *Haraad Reeb's* assistance, MoWR developed a drought disaster preparedness plan and implemented the National Hydrological Droughts Preparedness Guideline and Drought Early Warning System Manual. The preparedness plan included facilitating workshops to arm communities with coping strategies and establishing a Rapid Drought Response Unit to rehabilitate strategic water points. In support of the Rapid Drought Response Unit, CARE provided a crane truck, which could be operated by senior technicians and recent graduates of the Water Technology Institute.

## Results

### Remaining challenges

- Material distribution (tanks, wheelbarrows, etc.) is unsustainable. One year after distribution, 19 percent of households no longer had the materials.
- Only 15 percent of survey respondents observe the four identified key handwashing times.
- Water quality is important to consumers, resulting in drinking from unsafe sources due to preferred taste.

### Notable successes

- 13,200 households have protected sustainable water supply (24 hours a day, seven days a week).
- Water availability in their village was sufficient or better than before for 95 percent of survey respondents.
- Daily water consumption increased from 2.5-7.5 liters to 14.5 liters.
- Solar water schemes met up to 60 percent of O&M costs.

- Using tools established with the MoWR, the impact of the 2015-2016 El Niño drought was predicted and mitigated through appropriate technical support.
- Approximately 500 latrines were constructed in the project area, and as of February 2016, five communities achieved ODF status.
- 390 hygiene and sanitation education and cleaning campaigns were conducted in 30 target villages.

### Primary recommendations

Based on the independent project evaluation, the following actions are recommended:

- Promote water quality awareness, teaching the importance of safe water sources and handling.
- Target building community assets and collective resilience rather than focusing on individual households; for example, using a work-for-assets model instead of direct donation of materials.
- Any projects or programs with sanitation and hygiene promotion components should involve and develop the capacity of the ministry responsible for public health.
- Subject the Rural Water Supply Community Based Management Manual to further discussions and critique, with a view to adopting it as a national policy.
- Support MoWR to develop water resource management guidelines and/or policy.
- Scale up project activities, taking into account lessons learned from the past phases, to increase coverage in the target villages and reach new communities

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