



Integrated Development Focus (IDF-S)

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Success Story

Program:	Food for Asset: FFA
Project:	Canal Rehabilitation in the reverine area of ODA
District:	Belet-Hawa district
Region:	Gedo
Project Duration:	3 Months: July to September 2018

“The floods ravaged our farms and swept away our entire farms produce as well as canals that existed in the farms and thuds lost our livelihoods. Alas came the food for asset project and we regained our energy and smiled once again to ensure we are back to our farms”. Remarks made by farmers in ODA village in the reverine area of Belet-Hawa district.

This are farmers in ODA village in the reverine after the introduction of the three months food for asset project in the reverine areas that were affected by the flash floods in the last rainy season in the area. The rehabilitation of the canals in the farms was quite crucial as part of mending the infrastructure in the farm zones and thus provision of lifeline for farmers in the area.

The flash floods left the farmers in bad situation after they lost their farm produce as well as source of livelihoods and thus had no source of income and thus the injection of the food for asset project in the area came in handy. The lack of funds for farmers to undertake rehabilitation work was a tall order given that they lost their main source of livelihood which was farming and thus the need to have an external humanitarian assistance was quite important given the situation and timing of the injection of the food for asset project in the reverine areas of Belett-Hawa district.

The rehabilitation of the canals in the farm zones provided a lease of life for the farmers to re-ignite their hopes of going back to the farms once again and re start their source of livelihoods in the area. The coping mechanisms of the farmers diminished as a result of multiple droughts as well as flash floods in the area for the past 78 years and thus the need to have an external assistance was crucial and thus the need to address and fill in the gap that existed in the farming zones of Gedo region in southern Somalia.

IDF initiated special program for farmers in giving them capacity building on early warning early action: EWEA program that could be used as an important source of information towards disasters taking place in the area. EWEA was also vital in activating the local population set mind and preparation towards countering and preparing for such events as it will reduce the impact of the risk and thus provide solutions and way forward for the next course of action. Historical documentation of the previous disasters since early 60s was noted through group of elders aged 80 years and above who are still alive and acted as a source of encyclopedia for the past events and how they affected the local population and what action was taken to safe both human life as well as livestock in the area.

The most important part of the flash floods disaster is the timely management of the project t and the active participation and involvement of the local population in the area. IDF believes that:

“Disasters and Emergencies are there to happen, but the essence is the timely fixing of the situation as it arise”.