



Integrated Development Focus(IDF-S)

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Success stories from Belet-Hawa, Gedo region, Jubbaland State, Somalia – Vegetable Garden Project



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This feature is part of the project commitments aimed to show case the success of the project titled: Vegetable Garden Project for Agro-pastoral farmers in Malkariyey, Gawido and Oda villages. The project was funded by WFP and implemented by Integrated Development Focus (IDF). The livelihoods of the people living in these villages were devastated by the floods of 2018.

The aim of the feature is to find the untold stories, air the debates, amplify the muted voices, do the research and, along the way, find equitable solutions to the problems facing the target populations.

For Halima Ismail Dhalahow, a widowed mother of 6 owns of 27 SQM of land on the project supported farms. She prepared the land and planted with vegetable seeds, irrigation the crops and cultivated the farm until harvest to produce vegetables and fruits for household consumptions as well as for sale in the local market.

Halima Ismail Dhalahow is among more than **501** smallholder farmers involved in a joint WFP/IDF project whose overall objectives was to boost sustainable agricultural production and small holder farmer's economic empowerment. The specific objectives of the project were:

- To provide resident communities with an opportunity to explore options and develop sustainable livelihoods and improve resilient
- To increase the income of the targeted families through improved farming vegetable/fruit production thereby improve the food security of the target population.
- To increase HHs access to food to address the food insecurity in the targeted villages
- To increase the employment opportunities among the target HHs
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After Halima Ismail Dhalahow joined the project in her village of Gawido, she received 75 kg of sorghum, 10 kg of pulses, 10 kg of CSB and 5.2 kg of oil as one month (October) allocation. She also received 2 months allocation of cash voucher valued at 140 US\$ (70 US\$/month), which has improved the living condition of her household.

PICTURE



Halima Ismail Dhalahow is one of the beneficiaries of the project in her village. This is what she says about the project:

“Before this project, we had difficulty in accessing resources to restart of cultivating in our farms, which were destroyed by the floods of 2018. Today, it is different; as I am privileged to farm the same land with resources provided to us by WFP through IDF. My village is known for growing vegetables and fruits for household consumption as well as for sale in the local market.

“During last planting season, I sowed 10kg of improved vegetable and fruits seeds using a better way of planting I learned from the training known as line sowing. I harvested 15 quintals of vegetables and fruits and sold that to the community at the local market for 500 US\$. With traditional planting, for the same amount of seeds and other inputs, there are times when the yield is not even a quarter of that.”

She says that some members of her community found it so unbelievable, they accused her of witchcraft. But the village administration acknowledged her publicly, awarding her a commendation. Halima Ismail Dhalahow. now trains men and women farmers in these new agricultural techniques and has organized a self-help savings group of 20 members.

The impact of the project has been profound, says Ibrahim A. Abdille, the project Manager.

Halima Ismail Dhalahow takes care of her sheep by her grass-roofed house. Among her long-term plans are to build a new roof with corrugated iron sheets. Picture:

PICTURE

