



Integrated Development Focus(IDF-S)

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FOOD SECURITY SUCCESS STORY

Name of project: Food for Training (FFT)

Name of activity: Adult literacy education

Number of beneficiaries: 100

Location: Beled Amin IDP Camp, Beled Hawa District Gedo Somalia

Implementing partner: Integrated Development Focus (IDF)

Dated on April 2014 IDF and WV signed agreement on Food for assets and food for training project. The aims were to improve access to food for the most vulnerable households and boost access to livelihood assets that ensure early recovery, reduce disaster risks and build long-term resilience to shocks and promote gender equality in a war torn country (Somalia).

After the agreement IDF consulted with the local community in order to share project aims and open space for them to participate in realizing project goals and objectives. During the consultation forum the following were some of the community reactions and suggestions:-

- Community was ready to work with ID in all stages of project cycle management.
- Community expectations to boost up their morals and reduce food insecurity were raised
- Women were expected to benefit from the FFA/FFT project since they are the most vulnerable in the community.

As usual, implementation started in various livelihood zones targeting 1150 beneficiaries of which 315 were female, among the targeted groups were internally displaced persons living in Beled-Amin camp.

Beled-Amin is an IDP comp situated near the main road that connects Beled-Hawa and Dolow districts. This camp has been operating in Beled –Hawa district since the collapse of the central government of Somalia in 1991 and is about 2kms from the main town.

Integrated development focus (IDF) conducted interview to measure the project impact and had the opportunity to interview Sahara Osman Abdirahman who is an IDP leaving in B/Amin and a beneficiary of the food for training-FFT project. “We used to see cash projects, free food distribution, food for work and many other humanitarian programs but we have never witnessed such wonderful project where you gain knowledge and skills and at some point you receive food for your family.” says Sahara.

“I am provider of the daily bread to my family and take care of my children’s future.”

Sahara

Sahara is a mother of 7 children whose husband passed away as a result of chronic malaria. Being a mother, again she played the role of her late husband. “I am provider of the daily bread to my family and take care of my children’s future,” she says.

Sahara, 40, is a woman of medium height and dark skin. She carries herself differently this time. She has been that meek and submissive mother who had little knowledge of the world around her. The basic learning she received seems to have changed a lot about the way she thinks and sees the world in a different spectrum. Holding a pen on her left hand, she makes firm gestures that truly reconnect with the story she is making. Her eyes look straight and stern different from what you expect of an average village woman. The spark of inspiration and ambition ignited by the project seemed to exude from them.



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FFT project beneficiaries receiving food during food distribution in the month of August 2014

During our interview Sahara pointed out some of her achievements in 4 months time i.e. June, July, August and September 2014 and they are as follows:-

- Before this initiative she had no vision of acquiring knowledge and skills at the age of 40.
- Before FFT project the basic arithmetic was difficult to her but now she can do subtraction, multiplication and division.
- Before she was unable to write her name in Somali language but now she is competent and can write it down and thus a positive move from using finger prints when receiving aid or required to sign document.
- Before this intervention she had difficulties on child development in terms of education but having education awareness /sensitizations opportunities she is able to develop her children's future.
- Before she started benefiting from this project, she was disconnected from the events taking place at the world stage. All her focus and energies were directed towards making ends meet, but Sahara Osman Abdirahman has a different vision today. "Thanks God and initiators of this project I am now able to monitor my children's progress at school and ensure that they are doing well. This has been achieved through this wonderful combination of aid and educational assistance." she says.

Sahara Osman Abdirahman is an example of women who have benefited from the FFT project but still there are others who have been influenced by the project in similar manners. Their stories may echo sentiments akin to Sahara's or quite different. Since this has been a new project, the community is requesting an extension of the project duration as well as increasing the number of beneficiaries. This will go a long way in ensuring that the project creates sustainable assets for future development of the community and boost livelihoods. On the other hand, this intervention will mitigate food insecurity and provide sources of alternative livelihoods through the already changing mindsets, setting a new hopeful and ambitious precedent for the upcoming generation.



They say a picture tells a thousand stories. This is Sahara for you before the project, looking shy and reticent different from her current spiraling confident levels.

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Sahara

Learning and getting skills in your mother tongue is the most effective and efficient tool for developing the level of literacy in any country and Sahara case is an example and thus the Somali phrase adapted by the Somali government Ministry of Education in the early 70s when the Ministry made the Somali language as the national language as well the language for use in the Somali educational institutions in the county.

Afki Qalad Hamodiin – Do not think it is foreign language

Caraabku Qaldimayow – The tongue does not slip

Sidi canaha Qurquuriya – Like milk, it can be swallowed smoothly.

Story By: Mohamed Sheikh Hassan
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