

QUARTERLY ACTIVITY REPORT  
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# Somalia

THE INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR MIGRATION (IOM)

## THE INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR MIGRATION (IOM) KNOWS THE NEEDS AND OPPORTUNITIES BECAUSE WE ARE THERE

IOM is present in 8 locations across Somalia. Our skilled and experienced staff are trained to adapt to situations and resolve crises as they arise, all the while working in cooperation with authorities and partners. This ensures that any support to IOM leads to results exactly where they are needed.

### SUPPORT IOM IN SOMALIA

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# MEET OUR PARTNERS



IOM's Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) programme is based on a unique public-private partnership (PPP) that utilizes innovative, cost-effective, and environmentally-friendly technologies for clean and safe water provision in parallel with hygiene promotion. Today, across Somalia, IOM is providing clean and safe water more than 44,000 people every day, meeting the minimum requirement of the Somalia WASH cluster.

We speak to **Dahir Abdirahman Abdi**, Programme Manager at Action for Social and Economic Progress (ASEP), IOM's implementing partner in Gedo Region, Somalia.

**Q** How is IOM Somalia working with ASEP to improve the well-being of migrants, mobile populations, and their host communities?

**A** In partnership with IOM Somalia, ASEP provides clean and safe water in parallel with hygiene promotion to some of Somalia's most vulnerable mobile populations, and their host communities. Through these activities, we are making remarkable progress towards reducing water-borne diseases in Somalia.

ASEP operates across Gedo Region in southern Somalia, and are currently partnering with IOM in three IDP settlements: Balanbaalle I & II, Aljazeera in Luuq town, and Kabasa IDP camp in Dollow town.

Clean and safe water is provided through a water treatment facility that purifies high turbid water using Japanese flocculation technology "Poly-Glu" and disinfects the water with chlorination.

**Q** How many other organizations has ASEP partnered with, and against that backdrop what would you say IOM Somalia's comparative advantages are?

**A** Not many local organizations have the level of capacity that we do, and as such, we are a preferred partner for many international organizations that implement projects and programmes in Somalia.

In comparison to many of the organizations we have partnered with, IOM has well-trained, culturally-sensitive, flexible, enthusiastic and friendly Programme Support Officers at their field-offices & sub-offices, which helps to enhance the efficiency of work, and this is very important in an environment like Somalia where the ground shifts very fast.

**Q** Why is collaboration and partnership so important, for organizations like IOM that operate in Somalia?

**A** Somalia has differences in context and the ground in this country shifts very fast. If an organization intends to implement sustainable projects and programmes that communities will take ownership of, it is imperative that partnerships with highly qualified local NGOs that understand the cultural dimension

and have credibility in the eyes of local authorities, community leaders and beneficiaries should be forged.

Furthermore, owing to security concerns in certain areas, it is much easier for Somali nationals to monitor projects and programmes, than it would be for a foreigner.



A water tank is set up at Kabasa IDP settlement by the community, IOM and partners. © IOM 2013 (Photo: Kaori Nakasa)



IOM conducts regular trainings for its implementing partners. © IOM 2013 (Photo: Abdulkadir Ahmed)

**Q** What are some of the biggest challenges of mobile and migrant populations, and their host communities in hard-to-reach areas across Somalia?

**A** There are a few people that can deny that in hard-to-reach areas across Somalia, there are no big or small challenges – almost everything seems to be a major concern because very few organizations are present to offer sustainable support to local communities and government initiatives.

We specialize in provision Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) activities, and this is because the past two decades of conflict resulted in deterioration of the water and sanitation situation across Somalia, weakening communities' social structures and coping mechanisms. The continued internal displacement of population adds increasing pressure on an already overextended WASH infrastructure. According to a report released by WHO and UNICEF, in 2012, only an estimated 30 per cent of Somalia's population had access to safe and clean water.

**Q** What has been the foremost success of IOM's partnership with ASEP?

**A** We have enjoyed innumerable successes. If I was to narrow it down to two things, I would say targeting more than 10,000 people with provision of clean and safe water to on a daily basis, and realizing a marked improvement in the community's general hygiene and sanitation, which has led a reduction in water-borne diseases.

**Q** Moving forward, how do you think the partnership between ASEP and IOM will evolve over the next few years?

**A** Over the next few years, I foresee a situation where ASEP and IOM will no longer be needed in Somalia. Every day, our government's institutions are being strengthened, and local communities are displaying more resilience than they ever have. Soon, Somalis will handle their own matters without assistance from organizations like ours.

In the mid-term, I see ASEP and IOM strengthening the sustainability components of our WASH programme, and reaching more of Somalia's vulnerable mobile populations and their host communities.



Every year, IOM and partners commemorate Global Handwashing Day in Somalia. © IOM 2013 (Photo: GSA)

IOM is committed to the principle that humane and orderly migration benefits migrants and society. As the leading international organization for migration, IOM acts with its partners in the international community to: Assist in meeting the growing operational challenges of migration management; Advance understanding of migration issues; Encourage social and economic development through migration; Uphold the human dignity and well-being of migrants.

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IOM distributes goats to help support the return and re-integration of families in Somalia who were forced to flee from their homes due to natural catastrophes or insecurity. © IOM 2013 (Photo: GREDO)