



Himilo Relief and Development Association

HIRDA

GENERAL REPORT OF GEDO REGION (NOVEMBER-JANUARY/004)

There was no change in the Region during last three months. There was no change in the secondly situation. The only pleasing event was that the Region has had enough rain during this season. The prolonged droughts has come an end although its impact is still visible. Farmers in the region expect good harvest this season.

Similarly there is no change in the education side that it is fully under the control of HIRDA, NCA and TROCAIR, while HIRDA is the most significant one that the society is rejoiced with thought it has qualitative and quantitative jobs. In the society, there is nothing alarming in their social life

However, a part from hopelessness about Somalia's future, the region is now calm and established while there is no conflicts during the last months

HEALTH

Poor hygiene is the biggest aspect the Region is suffering from communicable diseases such as tuberculoses and malaria is very wide in the Region.

Although there are hospitals in Lug, Beled-Hawa and Burduwa they cannot cover the medical needs in the Region.

The community is suffering from serious various diseases mostly caused by contaminated water in the Region and there are no hospitals fit to solve such problems. People go to the neighboring town of Kenya, (Mandera) and some times to Mogadishu and Dinsor (Bay Region) for healthcare because there are no expert doctors and the rest have no health apparatus.

The health situation Elwak and B/dera is based on a critical condition, except for the two MCH centers in the two districts, there are no central hospitals which the own. Due to these issues the health condition of the Region has worsened.

Health agencies that were operating in the Region such as TROCIAR of Beled Hawa, AMREF of Lugh, and MAMISA of Garbaharrey and Burduwa still continue their activities in those aeries.

WATER SITUATION

The main water source in the region is the Jubba river while there are countable wells drunk by people and animals. There are no agencies

responsible of helping people find clean water though UNICEF rarely assists the community to cleanse the river water when it decreases and stops moving. Drinking such dirty water be either the river water or the countable wells has caused the death of many people and animals every year.

On the other hand, while such dirty water is drunk most parts of the region. Yet it is difficult for some people to get them. Which caused people specially nomads flees from fertile land suitable for farming and grazing due to lack of rivers, wells or shallow wells. These lands became green during rainy seasons.

ICRS built large water pools so that those lands have water to be used by people and animals during draughts even though only this step is not enough to cover the need for water but it needs other assistance from the international agencies.

EDUCATION OF THE REGION

HIRDA, NCA and TROCAIRE are the biggest agencies that are now handling the education system in the Region. HIRDA runs two primary schools, carpentry school, adult and health classes in Bardera. ANCA and TROCAIR operate in G/harrey, B/duba, B/hawa and their surrounding.

The general situation of the education in the Region is actually improving and now there is cohesion between HIRDA, NCA, and TROCIAR, which we expect to be increasing the development of the education in the Region.

BARDERA

B/dera is among the Regions severely suffering from community problems while being very weak in a lot of parts. The town is most peaceful district in the Region. When evaluated the tranquility of Bardera district, it is well stabilized, there are no any confrontation or actions that can create conflict in the district and its outskirts which is the biggest significance it is different from the rest of the Region where sometimes confrontation and conflicts break out.

On the other hand, B/dera is the weakest town in health cares and people hebituclised to be infected by diseases like malaria and diarrhea and etc. Except for few un experienced men who trade in pharmacies, the town has no medical doctors, that caused some people, who cannot read leaflets, to use expire medicines. There are few midwives in the town who are without surgical equipments and use clean less cultural equipments which can simply cause women to die and men have preferred to take their wives to far areas where there are hospitals in delivery periods and sometimes it becomes too dangerous for women to miss their lives in their journey to such areas. People use only the River water directly, that facilitated the communicable diseases in the Town and its surrounding.

Bardera economic situation appears apparently deteriorating. The life has become difficult due to the roads which link Bardera and the other regions of the Country were cut off because of rains.

So, the prices of the imported items in the market have grown highly and movement of the Bardera market was very low. The prices of daily life food for the last two months have been floating.

The district markets where local and imported food is sold people buy everything in this price.

Item	Quantity	Price in So.Shs
<u>Imported food</u>		
Pasta	1kg	19,000
Rice	1kg	9,000
Flour	1kg	8,000
Sugar	1kg	9,000
Oil	1lt	22,000
<u>Local food</u>		
Sorghum	1kg	1,500
Maize	1kg	2,000
Beans	1kg	4,500
Sesame oil	1lt	21,000
Camel meat	1kg	30,000
Cattle meat	1kg	20,000
Goats/sheep meat	1kg	35,000
Camel milk	1lt	9,000
Cattle milk	1lt	7,000
Goats milk	1lt	10,000
Charcoal	1kg	2,000
Water	1drum(200lt)	4,000

MONEY EXCHANGE RATE

November
1USD=19,000So.Shs

1Kenyan Shillings = 250So.Shs

December
100USD=18,800So.Shs

1K.Shs = 250So.Shs

January
1USD=16,000So.Shs

1K..Shs=230S.Shs

WATER SITUATION

People use only the River water. And the River is at two stages as the year and they are:

The rainy seasons the river is carrying midly water, small living things, gravels and dead animals.

In the draught seasons the water of the river decrease and instantly it stops moving and gathering at some place drank at by people and animals and used as garbage dump areas.

This total contaminated water used by people facilitated communicable diseases in the town such s diarrhea, intestinal parasites and so on which daily while cholera normally breaks out once a year during the draught season.

HIRDA ACTIVITEIS IN BARDERA

HIRDA's activities in Bardera contain different components and they are smoothly running, in spite of some difficult that rises in some times.

HIRDA SCHOOLS

HIRDA schools remain to be prominent education implementation impacts in the Region (best schools in Gedo). HIRDA education has two systems of schooling, which are formal and non-formal education. HIRDA also runs adult education, Carpentry and health classes.

FORMAL EDUCATION

The formal education is the primary schools education, which is the first successes area of HIRDA for school-aged children that resulted secondary school to be established. The formal education schools that HIRDA runs are:

BPS
DKPS
SWSS

Bardera primary school, DR Kassim Primary School and Sayid Warsame Secondary School have closed for the 1st term vocation. The vacation started on 1st January and end on 1st February. Before the exams, the first terminal exams took place.

I. HIRDA Formal Education achievements

1. The school aged children in the District got their rights for opportunity of quality primary education.
2. Opportunity of education continuation in the District, which motivated the students and the parents to get this occasion in his hometown.
3. HIRDA schools became the leading and the prominent in the Region that caused the rest of the schools in the Region to come with better performance in order to compete with HIRDA schools.

Constrains

Although this system has expanded up to secondary level, there are some constraints to the system such as:

Questions were raised on getting equipments and materials that are necessary for the secondary school

- Can the Somali curriculum be translated to English?
- Can this new education level get well trained and highly motivated teachers (Well paid)?
- Can the payment system be reformed to meet the parents and students demands of quality education (parents pay schools fees according to the quality of the education provided to their children)?

Suggestions

- Better payment for the secondary school teachers
- To provide the necessary materials and equipments for the Secondary School such as:
 - Curriculum in English language
 - Laboratory and its equipments
 - Library
- To provide capacity building trainings for the secondary school teachers
- To create good relations with the other similar schools in the Country to exchange ideas and experiences.

The above suggestions are necessary for the improvement HIRDA education system in Bardera and that will result increased quantity and quality of the students in Bardera Secondary School.

II. NON-FORMAL EDUCATION

This education system is intended for the youth who exceeded the appropriate age of the primary education in order to prepare for the formal education system accordingly. HIRDA teachers have been actively teaching in voluntary bases for many years.

Achievements of non-formal education

1. HIRDA facilitated for the unfortunate youth who lost their education opportunities during the civil war to recover from that by taking eighteen months (18) non-formal education classes to later join the formal education. Some of these youth are in the secondary school.
2. Attendances of the non-formal school students are currently increasing.
3. After long good performance in the Non-formal education UNICEF officially recognized this system and trained four of HIRDA N.F.E teachers. HIRDA Bardera is expecting curriculum and equipments for HIRDA N.F.E from UNICEF.

Constraints

The hindrances of the non-formal education improvements are

- a) The running of this non-formal education system is left for HIRDA Bardera alone with out any assistance from outside Bardera.
- b) Lack of motivation for teachers and students (festivals, awards and sports). Therefore this system is much lower than the formal education system, at the side of the student's moral and number of class attendants.

This fore mentioned aspects result the students to disinterest the education, both the new comers and the ordinary students.

Suggestions

This system is a great opportunity for the disadvantaged youth who lost formal education opportunities to speed up and catch-up with the primary/intermediate formal education classes.

In order to increase the quantity and the quality of the students, we would like to suggest

- To provide it motivation as the formal education schools such as festivals, competition awards, sports and etc.
- To keep the teachers morale high, to show them the importance of their hard work for the community.

III. ADULT EDUCATION

HIRDA also runs adult education classes. This kind of education was intended to fight against illiteracy. Most of the students in the classes are women because most of illiterate parents are women. The attendees that enrolled to the classes are the parents of the children.

However, HIRDA adult education runs smoothly, in spite of existing constrains which are like the ones of non-formal education.

IV. CARPENTRY SCHOOL

The work of the School is increasing since the start of the furniture for sale, demands from the people is stepping up. It is seen as a great opportunity because many who sent their furniture to Mogadishu and Kenya are having access to availability of high quality house and office furniture. And if the workshop improves, then there is the possibility of the workshop attracting the rest of the Region since they are connected to Mogadishu or Kenya too.

However, the workshop still needs more improvement. There is shortage and need for more materials such as machines.

V. HEALTH CLASSES

The school's situation is now normal and officially continuing. The main purpose of the school's existence is the community to cover their need for health specially the prevention of communicable diseases and the treatment of common diseases.

VI. SPORTS

When you glance at the side of the sports, which is an important area for Bardera community, and also social relations improving factor HIRDA Bardera has in important leading role. There are sports teams from HIRDA Bardera like:

- HIRDA Bardera team
- BPS Team, and
- Other sub teams of the schools classes

Successes of HIRDA sports field

Efforts of HIRDA in the sports field gained:

- Reputation in the playgrounds
- Formation of other sports groups from the community to compete with HIRDA teams
- Increased friendly tournaments with the other neighboring towns
- Some of the armed militiamen put their guns down and opted to join the sports clubs to avoid armed violence
- HIRDA Bardera Sports activities simplify community awareness programs for the peacemaking missions.

Constrains of HIRDA sports activity

In spite of the development motioned above there are some constrains to the sports development.

- a. There is no well established playground for Bardera Town or especial one for HIRDA which could provide seats for the spectators where by currently people watch the games without seats
- b. HIRDA teams are increasing like DKPS Team, which have not received direct support from HIRDA that caused students of DKPS to transfer to BPS for the supported spots team.

HIRDA Bardera achievement

HIRDA Bardera is increasing collaborations with the other organizations and the community.

- On December/003 we have participated workshop concerning on project management held by NCE in Balad-Hawa. Two members from HIRDA participated that workshop.
- On January/004 we participated on other workshop regarding drought cycle management training, which held by TROCAIRE in Mandera Town, which we sent other two HIRDA members.

- HIRDA Bardera successfully completed the construction of two secondary classrooms.

HIRDA Bardera failures

We have some minor failures such as:

1. Decreased sensitization of improving the funs and drama team of the schools of HIRDA schools that resulted the passion and spirit of the students to decrease.
2. It is not yet possible to take students to other schools in the Region for knowledge competition due to the lack of funds. This could cause the students to compete hard and increase the quality of their knowledge

Suggestions

So as to cover and mend any gap at the field operation, we would like to suggest:

- * To consider and act on the suggested solutions by the front line extension members.
- * To keep the members/workers motivated.
- * To make easy (facilitate) communication between the two HIRDA main offices in Somalia (Bardera and Abud-wak) to continuously exchange ideas and experiences.

General suggestions

Bardera community lives in difficult and hostile environment at the sides of water, health, sanitation and poor administration, which we had previously mentioned in our reports. These problems crippled the community development and it's the basic life.

So. We suggest:

1. To put efforts on getting solutions for contaminated water directly used from the River by Bardera Community, that caused frequent outbreak of diseases related to this issue such as: Dysentery, Diarrhea, Bilharzias and some times Cholera. There are also crocodile attacks to the people directly fetching water from the river that results death and injuries in every week.

There for we recommend:

- a. To create large community awareness and trainings to women on house hold hygiene since they are the backbone of the family live
 - b. To construct water purification system that supply clean water to Bardera Town giving by low prize.
2. To support the District Hospital which is no doctor and hospital facilitating materials.
 3. To train the District authority for increasing their knowledge on good governance
 4. To repair and assist the District Police station in order to keep the general security of the Town.

Thanks

Ahmed Abdi Mohamed
HIRDA Representative