

Organizational Details

Registered Name: Agricultural Development Organization (ADO)

Year of Establishment: 1993

Member of other networks: Somaliland non-state actors, Somaliland pastoral Forum, Nagaad

Headquarter Information

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Executive director**

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Regional Office

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ADO PROFILE

Investing in Dryland Agriculture for Growth and Resilience



There is chance at winning the battle against hunger, malnutrition and rural poverty.

ORGANIZATIONAL BACKGROUND - ADO

The Agricultural Development Organization - ADO - was established in 1993 in Burao with a focus at the time on relief and rehabilitation in order to assist the returnee population who had their homes and livelihoods destroyed during the civil war in the 1980s. Since its establishment, ADO has expanded its activities and has ventured into early recovery and development. ADO has its Head Office in Hargeisa with the regional branch offices in Burao, Borama and Erigavo of Togdheer, Awdal and Sanaag regions. ADO is an active member of the main local umbrella groups, namely, NAGAAD and Solpaf and Sonsef. It also strongly collaborates with the Environment Network, Human Rights Network, and Food Security Network. Currently, the organization is in close partnership with UNDP, ISF, OCHA/CHF, NOVIB and Development Fund (DF) and Pharo Foundation. A rights-based, pro-poor and people-centered methodology is the core philosophy inherent in ADO's development approach. ADO's approach is an innovative community-based participatory learning approach aimed at empowering marginalized groups to be engaged in areas that affect their lives. Throughout all the stages of the project cycle, our approach is a bottom-up process; it is a community-driven and people-centered approach. Our belief is that good governance, human rights and democratic principles need both vertical and horizontal support. This paradigm requires developing effective linkages and strengthening meaningful relationships at different levels (national, sub-national and local levels).

Vision: ADO envisages a productive and self-reliant society living in healthy environment where citizens have good quality of life and equal access to national resources.

Mission: Agriculture Development organization is non-governmental, non-profit seeking organization that

Endeavors to promote agricultural sector, farmers' capacity and environmental protection and conservation in order to empower and improve livelihood conditions of the poor agro-pastoral community in Somaliland through rights-based approach.

Values and Principles: ADO aspires to a professional service in program design and implementation with all the stakeholders including partners, beneficiaries, government and other development actors. ADO values development-oriented programs to ensure sustainability of institutions and interventions for poverty eradication especially those targeting vulnerable and marginalized groups in Somaliland. The below mentioned values are identified and established as the guiding principles in implementing the strategic plan of ADO: These are:

- ✓ Respect for cultural values of the community
- ✓ Respect for the rule of law and human rights
- ✓ Promoting community participation and empowerment
- ✓ Transparency and accountability
- ✓ Promoting gender equity
- ✓ Commitment to excellence in service delivery
- ✓ Focus on disadvantaged segments in the community.

Geographical coverage's:

Regarding the geographical coverage, the organization regularly operates in the four regions in Somaliland, which are Maroodi-jeex, Togdheer, Sanaag and Awdal and extends assistance to communities living in these regions. ADO currently has its Head Office in Hargeisa and two regional offices in Burao and Erigavo. All the offices are well established with 31 **professional staffs** that have capability, knowledge and high experts in Agriculture and Livelihood sectors. This has made it possible for ADO to work with a number of international and UN agencies inside and outside the country and successfully implemented over 100 projects in different sectors throughout in Somaliland.

ADO's Strategic Objectives

Strategic goal: Contribute poverty reduction and make agriculture, Livestock and fisheries more productive and sustainable.

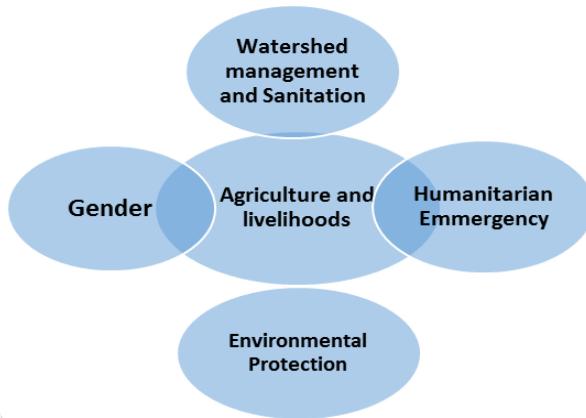
Strategic goal: Enhance environmental protection and conservation and promote effective natural resources management practices.

Strategic goal: Empower rural communities for resilience and mitigate effects of emergencies on rural communities.

Strategic goal: Promote gender equality, women's reproductive health right and contribute to prevention of HIV and AIDS

ADO's Programmatic Areas

1. Agriculture and livelihood development for rural communities
2. Environmental protection
3. Watershed management and sanitation in rural areas
4. Humanitarian Emergency operations.
5. Gender Empowerment



Agriculture

ADO primary agriculture programmatic area composes two main big component of crop and livestock husbandry. Therefore, ADO focuses livestock and crop husbandry sectors differently to build the capacity of the rural poor community in Somaliland and enable rural communities sustain their livelihoods. To meet the priority agriculture needs of the beneficiary community, ADO agriculture program lies under effective three years strategic plan with well-designed, and sustainable agriculture principles run by professional staff. ADO in partnership with the ministry of agriculture and international partners of INGOs and UN agencies sought to intervene the situation.

However, ADO integrates and diffuses good agriculture practices to the rural farmer communities through farmer inputs delivery, provision of agriculture extension packages, availing extension agents in field level and connection farmer communities together to have their voice collectively.

For the past two decades ADO had been dealing with provision of support and capacity building to the farmer communities in Somaliland. The mainly utilized approach for crop sector development is currently "**sustainable agriculture**". The term sustainable agriculture means "an integrated system of plant and animal production practices having a site-specific application that will, over the long term:

- Satisfy human food and fiber needs
- Enhance environmental quality and the natural resource base upon which the agricultural economy depends
- Make the most efficient use of non-renewable resources and on-farm resources and integrate, where appropriate, natural biological cycles and controls
- Sustain the economic viability of farm operations
- Enhance the quality of life for farmers and society as a whole."

Sub-Sector Diversities:

ADO deals with thousands of farmers in Somaliland whom their farming systems are different according to their geographic localities and cultural inheritance. However, these different farming systems are;

- a) Rain-fed farming
- b) Irrigated farming

Agriculture Approach and Methodologies

To effectively increase the capacity of the farmer community in Somaliland, ADO utilizes two main approaches of:

I. Sustainable agriculture

ADO believes that sustainable agriculture provides high yields without undermining the natural systems and resources that productivity depends on. Below are the most common sustainable agriculture techniques introduced through agriculture extension packages and farmer community capacity development that employed by farmers to achieve the key goals of weed control, pest control, disease control, erosion control and high soil quality: valuable innovations within these approach are also;

- Crop Rotation
- Inter-cropping
- Cover Crops
- Natural soil Enrichment

II. Conservation Agriculture

Conservation Agriculture (CA) is a Concept for resource-saving agricultural crop production that strives to achieve acceptable profits together with high and sustained production levels while conserving the environment. CA is based on enhancing natural biological processes above and below the ground. Interventions such as mechanical soil tillage are reduced to an absolute minimum, and the use of external inputs such as agrochemicals and nutrients of mineral or organic origin are applied at an optimum level and in a way and quantity that does not interfere with, or disrupt, the biological processes.

CA is characterized by three principles which are linked to each other namely:

- Continuous minimum mechanical soil disturbance and direct seeding.
- Permanent organic soil cover.
- Diversified crop rotations in the case of annual crops or plant associations in case of perennial crops.

(CA) practices can create stable living conditions for micro and macro-organisms, providing a host of natural control mechanisms for the growth of crops, which result in significant efficiency gains. CA has proven to contribute to significant increases of crop production (40-100%) with decreasing needs for

farm inputs, in particular power and energy (50-70%), time and labour (50%), fertilizer and agrochemicals (20-50%) and water (30-50%). Furthermore, in many environments, soil erosion is reduced to below the soil regeneration level or avoided altogether and water resources are restored in quality and quantity to levels that preceded putting the land under intensive agriculture practices.

ACHIEVEMENTS

EMPOWERING FARMERS IN SOMALILAND: United They Stand, Divided They Fall

In recent years, the concept of farmer empowerment has increasingly become an important part of the development agenda being widely regarded as the most sustainable approach to helping poor farmers in becoming more productive. In fact, farmer empowerment is widely accepted as a precondition for demand-driven development with farmers articulating their demands. Hence, farmer cooperatives have the potential for providing a common platform for joint action through which small-scale farmers can gain the advantage of economy of scale in accessing services and markets. Moreover, farmer empowerment supports farmers to become strong actors in other areas that influence their livelihoods, such as education, health and land tenure rights. Farmer cooperatives tend to succeed if:

- Farmers can autonomously manage themselves with minimal government interference, and
- Farmers become active participants in the decision-making process at the community and district level.

Over the past years ADO had initiated and established 50 farmer cooperatives throughout the country. Around 2800 households were registered as members of the farmer associations.



Project photo: Farmer cooperatives training

An approach to rural development that involves farmers in decision-making is consistent with the increasing democratizing process in Somaliland. ADO has since its establishment in 1993 been providing valuable technical and materials support to local farmers. At this stage, ADO has realized the need to introduce a rights-based approach and gender mainstreaming to its programming since the poor – including farmers have inherent rights to demand development assistance. The most practical way of achieving this is the formation of farmer associations which could act “as catalyst for change” at the farmers’ level.

Increasing the Productivity and Empowerment of Smallholder Farmers

To build the capacity of Somaliland farmers ADO developed effective strategy that are intended to sustain the farmer communities' livelihoods. The main strategic focus of ADO is towards sustainable crop production. They key dimensions of this strategic objectives are;

- Increase farm productivity
- Promote crop diversification to maximize household income
- Transfer better agronomy practices to farmers households and scaling up adoptability of new sustainable agriculture methods
- Strengthen farmer institutions through formation of farmer cooperatives.

Simply ADO sustainable crop production intensification aims to increase crop production per unit area, taking into consideration all relevant factors affecting productivity and sustainability, including potential and/or real social, economic and environmental impacts. With a particular focus on environmental sustainability through an ecosystem approach, sustainable crop production intensification aims to maximize options for crop production intensification through the management of biodiversity and ecosystem services. ADO focuses on five major dimensions that can affect yields, therefore these need to be considered for sustainable crop production intensification. These factors can be classified according to their nature and the degree to which they contribute to the gaps:

- Biophysical: climate/weather, soils, water, pest pressure, weeds
- Technical/management: tillage, variety/seed selection, water, nutrients, weeds, pests, and post-harvest management
- Socio-economic: socio-economic status, farmer's traditions and knowledge, family size, labour/farm power availability, household income/expenses/investment
- Credit service, input supply, land tenure, market, research, development, extension
- Technology transfer and linkages: availability, competence and facilities of extension staff; integration among research, development and extension; farmers' attitude towards new technology.



Project Photo: furrow line planting as a new sawing methods introduced (2013) DF/ADO



Good sorghum crops grown in Gatiitaley- Role model Papaya plantation in Odweine village DF/ADO



**Project Photo: Successful CA Field in
Gatitaley village UNHCR/ADO**



**Farmer training session attended groups farmers
in Aduur, Erigavo district. CARE/ADO 2012**

Integrating Watershed Management program: investing in dry-land agriculture for growth and resilience

ADO takes a trans-disciplinary approach to develop innovative, locally adapted water harvesting solutions with wider relevance for rainfed Somaliland. Water harvesting technologies play a key role in bringing about an urgently needed increase in agricultural productivity, and to improve food and water security in rural areas. Water harvesting technologies enhance water buffering capacity, contributing to the resilience of Somaliland dry-lands to climate variability and climate change, as well as to socioeconomic changes such as population growth and urbanization. For the past decade, ADO has put emphasis on managing watershed in Somaliland, and given farmers the capacity to management watersheds and protect runoff water. However, ADO introduced farmers various soil and water conservation approaches to upgrade soil health and utilize running water. These methods that includes mechanical and manmade; *a)Terracing and Contour bunds b)Alley and strip cropping c)Plantation of Acia trees, d)Demo-plots and testing crop varieties.*



21,000 linear meters of Stone lines terraces has been constructed at hill sides of potential agriculture land of Hariirad village aiming at slow down runoff and increase water infiltration to improve production in semi-arid areas. At the same time, sediment is captured behind these semi-permeable barriers. A perennial grass (*Andropogon guyanus*) is sometimes planted to supplement the lines where stone is scarce. Stone lines are suited to low slopes, high runoff and hand labour. This technique is readily adopted by resource-poor farmers and can lead to a harvest even in years with low and erratic rainfall. Wide and deep planting pits are often used in combination, acting as micro-catchments within the field.

Likewise, Based on field experiences cultivation of crops on the contours cause less erosion and conserve more water than non-contour farming. Therefore, ADO has supported and widely introduced proper rainwater harvesting in planting fields through adoption of soil and water conservation

methods. Over the past years, 350,000 Linear meters of soil bunds has been constructed in Maroodi-jeex, Togdheer and Sanaag regions aiming at to keep rain water in the planting areas and enhanced long-term soil moisture contents and has resulted good crop yield harvesting by the farmer communities. **UNHCR, Novib and DF** are major donors financially contributed construction of soil and water conservation activities.



Contour bunds in Rainfed areas supports good results Soil and water conservation:
ADO/UNHCR 2009 - Shilmaale Village

SPATE IRRIGATION MANAGEMENT

To avail supplementary irrigation water for the farmers, ADO had taken effective agriculture water management approaches that lets farmers to get available irrigation water for their crops. Since the amount of rainfall received is not enough and the prevalence of recurrent water shortages and droughts in the country, to meet the irrigation requirements of the crops, these approaches have been tested in various areas in Somaliland and provided enough irrigation water for the entire farmer communities. ADO has managed and constructed dozens of irrigation water supply supporting infrastructures of mainly canals including;

- Spate irrigation canals
- Spring irrigation canals
- Sub-surface dams for water and sand retention at river beds
- Stream irrigation canals in mountainous areas of Sanaag Surad and Sanaag areas



Water diversion structure built in Haahi village. Typical farm stressed water shortage due to low rainfall

Support Water and sanitation in Rural areas

ADO had been focusing on provision of clean water to the rural communities during implementation of Support Water and sanitation in Rural areas projects. The primary objectives are of;

- Provision of clean water human drink

- Reduction of water water borne disease in rural areas

However, the water sanitation program put emphasis on;

- I. Construction of water resevoirs in rural areas
- II. Rehabilitation of damaged water reservoirs in rural areas
- III. Excavation of earth dams with ground level plastic sheet fitting, solar water pumping machines, and systemized water installation tap water.



Rehabilitated communal water reservoir- Earth dam Construction in Haahi Village DF/ADO in Gatiitaley village.

Enhancing the pastoralist capacity through provision of Livestock husbandry initiatives

For the past two decades ADO had also increasing the capacity of the agro-pastoral families in somaliland through fodder management, veterinary services provision by training CAHWs, milk hygiene promotion and dairy farming.

Fodder management

Fodder management is one of the effective strategies adopted by improving fodder management for pasture conservation and management. The approach had been introduced to vast number of pastoralist in Somaliland as it reduced land degradation due to over grazing and improved livestock nutrition status.



Improving livestock health

As long as epidemic and endemic diseases are re-current and affecting animal health, nutrition and meat and milk production quality. ADO had trained community animal health workers to provide primary veterinary service to the pastoral communities and equipped with veterinary kits that are available in villages. This initiative enhance the health aspect of the livestock and provided employment creation for trainees.

Alternative Livelihoods Development in Rural Areas;

Apiculture

To provide alternative sources of income for the entire Somaliland agro-pastoralists, ADO had management to train agro-pastoral communities on bee-keeping and management courses. This is due to the supportive environments with full of pollen, zero-human disturbance and less input requirements to initiate bee business. The initiative became an alternative sources of income for thousands of agro-pastoralists who receive currently further incomes than crop and livestock from honey selling in local markets.



Micro-Credit Services:

In order to meet the growing demand for credit services for about a million returnees and internally displaced people, ADO implemented a micro-credit program for women returnees in two regions of Somaliland. The program aimed at assisting displaced and returnee women in resettlement, and to help women and their families to quickly re-establish their economy on a sustainable level. So far ADO, with assistance from UNDP and CARE International, has assisted about 550 women, of whom the majority of them were returnees, women headed families and destitute families.

The program is successfully running on its third year implementation period and served more than 1000 clients among the poorest returnee women in Togdheer and Marodi-Jex regions. While the credit capital is limited, ADO plans to extend its credit services to other regions and towns.

However, for these returnees to achieve a high level of viability that will be beneficial to communities and profitable for themselves, they require continued and expanded support and services. Through this project the ADO consolidated its efforts to assist about **1000** vulnerable women returnees (of **7000** family members) in providing small credit, which will make it possible for them to start new businesses and/or expand their existing business that would result in increasing their income and livelihood.

Poultry keeping

Also ADO has done great improvement in the rural areas through provision and distribution of local chicken breeds to the rural community in Somaliland. The primary objective of this is to provide alternative sources of income to the rural people rather than farming and livestock rearing.

Mainly the household whom ADO distributed chicken get income through various means of;

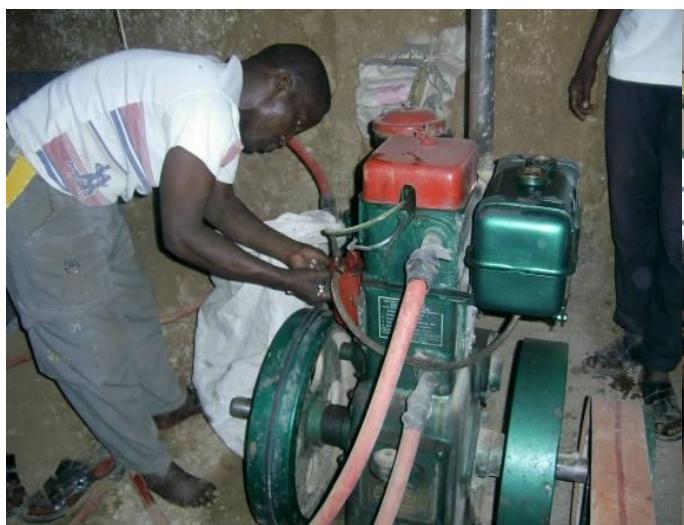
- Selling of chicken eggs in local villages
- Selling chicken breeds to other households in the villages

Enhancing crop processing and value adding capacity

ADO had been trying to provide crop processing and value adding initiative for the past years. The aim of this is to enable farmer communities to have the capacity to process their local raw products.

So far, the idea has given farmers enough capacity to process local food products and add value to their crop. The main activities ADO does in this sector are of;

- Provision of simple technology crop grinding machines
- Provision of modern oil crop seeds extraction machines
- Train local women groups on food processing initiatives
- Train women groups on value adding innovations
- Linking farmer products to the market



*A grinding machine at work in
Shilmale: UNHCR/ADO 2012*



*Promoted Local food processing by Women groups
DF/ADO 2010 Gatiately Village, Odweine*

The role of ADO in Humanitarian emergency responses

The humanitarian disasters unfolding in Somalia is one of the worst in the world. The scale, magnitude and speed at which the crisis is deteriorating are alarming and profound. To respond this situation, various actions had been taken to minimize the effects and level of vulnerability and crisis for people in need emergency intervention of urban and rural poor households. Agricultural Development Organization (ADO) in collaboration with WFP had implemented the largest food distribution operation for urban poor households in the Burao, Odweine and Buhoodle Towns which was involved around 45 food distributors and 4 coordinators. In total 9,717 households were supported for 4 months of Food distributions.

Emergency Water Trucking Operations Project in Sanaag Region CHF-ADO 2011

ADO began to implement an emergency water trucking project after it became apparent that the prevalence of drought will persist for a long period in large parts of Sanaag region, affecting an increased number of the rural population. The emergency water provision through voucher system the project targeted 1,206 rural households (HHs), from the onset of the project implementation period considerable time and resources were allocated to ensure that the maximum optimization of the limited resources available were obtained and made to benefit as many beneficiaries as possible. In the first two weeks of the project implementation 1,206 households or direct beneficiaries, the water and money vendors were successfully identified and reached by the project.

In the selection of the beneficiaries' considerable emphasis were placed in particularly on poor households that own less than 50 shoats, community members who live far away from major water points and female headed households. To this effect, 330 families selected as project beneficiaries were female headed households out of 1,206 (Est. 7236) and 48,000 herds were direct project beneficiaries. In total 19,747 barrels of water were provided to 10 different locations in Erigavo and El-Afweine districts for human and livestock consumption during the hot season. . Community owned Berkads and freshly dug-out holes covered with plastic sheets were mainly used as the main water storage facilities in the water distribution sites.



ADO Core Staff

Board Of Director

- | | |
|-------------------------|--------------|
| 1. Mohamed Hassan Gandi | Chair person |
| 2. Saleban Nur Tukale | Treasure |
| 3. Muna Yusuf Jama | Secretary |
| 4. Yusuf Warsame Mire | Member |

Management Team

Name	Position	Qualification	Years of Work Experience
Hussein Ismail Jama	Executive Director	BA Development Studies	13 years
Aidrus Ibrahim Abdi	Program coordinator	M.sc in Agriculture	12 years
Dahabo Jama Aden	Admi/finance officer	BA Business Administration	12 years
Sulub Ismail	M&E Officer	B.sc Agriculture; Advanced diploma in M&E	13 years
Sead Warsame Ismail	Project Manager	B.Sc in Agriculture	15 years
Abdillahi Yusuf	Project Manager	B.sc in Bio-chemistry	14 years
Khalid Sahid dirir	Project Manager	B.sc in Agriculture	6 years
Hassan Hussein Nur	Project Manager	B.sc in Agriculture extension	9 years
Ibrahim Ahmed	Engineer	B.sc Environmental engineering	4 years
Muse Raabi	Field Officer	Advanced diploma in Ag. extension	4 years
Mohamed Abdi Libah	Field officer	Advanced diploma in Ag. extension	4 years
Sacad Abdillahi	Field Officer	Diploma in Ag. extension	6 years
Rooble Ahmed	Chief accountant	BA in business administration	5 years
Mohamed Abdi Ahmed	Field Officer	Diploma in Agri. Extension	5 years
Faduma Ali	Cashier	BA accounting	4 years
Rahma Abdillahi	Gender Officer		4 years
Yurub I JAMA	Communication officer	Advanced Diploma in IT	5 years
Jamila Jamma	Logistics	Advanced diploma in Logistics and ware house management	6 years

