



Facts & figures

Partner: NGO CARE

Location: KENYA, Dadaab Refugee camp

Type of Assistance: Provision of safe drinking water for the refugees

ECHO funding: around €1 million

Number of beneficiaries:
Around 450,000

CONTEXT

The last two years have been the driest in the Eastern Horn of Africa since 1950. Two consecutive rainy seasons have failed in Somalia, Northern and Eastern Kenya, Southern and Eastern Ethiopia and Djibouti. As a result harvests are very low, livestock mortality has soared, and food and water have become extremely expensive. This dramatically increases food insecurity and decreases the population's coping capacity.

The combination of conflict and drought has particularly exacerbated the situation in Somalia. There is estimated to be more than 810,000 Somali refugees in the Horn of Africa and thousands are arriving at refugee camps every week in Northern Kenya and Southern Ethiopia, many in a state of precarious health. The largest of these camps is Dadaab in Kenya, the population of which is expected to reach more than 500,000 by the end of 2011. This is presenting incredible challenges to those organisations providing relief.

CASE STUDY: DRINKING WATER SUPPLY TO DADAAB

The supply of safe water in sufficient quantity to refugees living in Dadaab has persistently been a challenge due to both to the old and dilapidated water network system and the increasing congestion in and around the camps. In this third largest settlement in Kenya, CARE operates a huge water reticulation system with 150 km of pipeline, more than 20 boreholes, 250 tap stands and 21 elevated steel tanks. This system requires considerable care & maintenance on a daily basis, including small extension works to reach new arrivals on the outskirts of the camps (1,500 new arrivals per day).

PARTNER SUPPORTED ACTIVITIES

Although far from ideal, the situation in terms of water provision in the camps significantly improved in 2009 and 2010 thanks to ECHO support. With collaborative projects funded in coordination with UNHCR, it was possible to achieve an average supply of water to refugees of 19 litres per person per day (corresponding to minimum SPHERE standard) in the 3 camps. A major challenge for 2011, particularly given the present situation, will be to ensure a minimum coverage for new arrivals living in the outskirts of the camps.

Ensuring the provision of 19 litres per person per day in Dadaab was made possible through the rehabilitation and upgrading of the old system the installation of elevated steel tanks to achieve a higher and more regular water pressure, and last but not least the drilling of 3 new boreholes. In 2011, CARE aims to complete the remaining rehabilitation works initiated in the previous phase, and also to focus on the needs on the outskirts of the camps through temporary installations to provide water to the massive daily influx of new arrivals.

The water management system is also being improved through the installation of a computer based hydraulic network which will enable the detection of non-visible water losses underground.

All activities in this CARE project which is funded by the Commission, ensure a minimal negative impact to the environment, and facilitate improved ways of utilizing land for longer term use and sustainability.

LOCAL HUMANITARIAN COLLABORATION

CARE works through the Kenyan National Environmental Management Authority (NEMA) in all aspects of programming.