

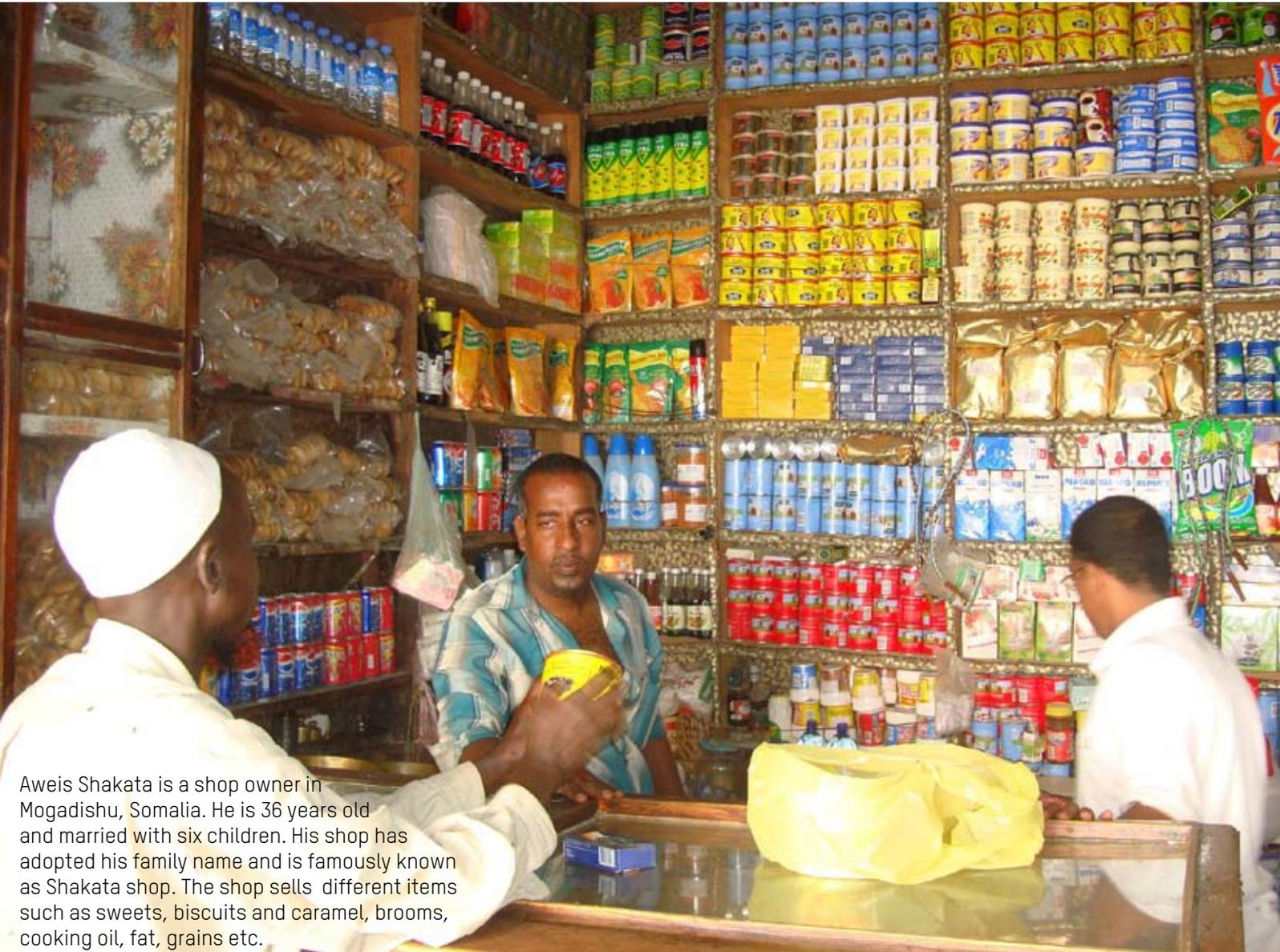


# SOMALIA EXTERNAL UPDATE

**OXFAM**

Issue #25: March - April 2013

<http://www.oxfam.org/somalia>



Aweis Shakata is a shop owner in Mogadishu, Somalia. He is 36 years old and married with six children. His shop has adopted his family name and is famously known as Shakata shop. The shop sells different items such as sweets, biscuits and caramel, brooms, cooking oil, fat, grains etc.

## OXFAM IN SOMALIA

Oxfam has worked with local Somali organisations to implement projects in Somalia for over 40 years. Oxfam is working through local partners to rebuild sustainable livelihoods, provide humanitarian assistance advocate for education for all and promote active citizenship and gender justice in Somalia.

Oxfam uses an integrated approach to implementing projects, working across emergency response and development, as well as campaigns to achieve a greater impact. We work with partners on long-term development – on disaster risk reduction (DRR), investing in livelihood value chain development, rangeland management, and employment creation to build resilience. Through its programmes, Oxfam supported over 140,000 people in March and April, 2013.

Photos: Petterik Wiggers and Oxfam



## HIGHLIGHTS

- Rains began in late March in many parts of Somalia easing the dry weather conditions that caused water shortages, particularly in the northern regions of Sool, Sanaag and Togdheer, and parts of the Gedo region in the South in the first quarter. The moderate to heavy downpour marked an early start to the April-June Gu rainy season, with Gaalkacyo, Eyl, Laas Caanood in Mudug, Nugaal and Bari, respectively, and Jowhar and Baardheere districts in southern Somalia recording significant rains according to the UNled Somalia Water and Land Information Management Unit (SWALIM)
- The United Nations Security Council voted unanimously on 6th March to temporarily rescind part of a 21-year-old arms embargo on Somalia, portraying the easing as part of an effort to strengthen the Somali government's authority by permitting it to purchase light weapons
- Famine and severe food insecurity in Somalia claimed the lives of about 258,000 people between October 2010 and April 2012, including 133,000 children under 5. In addition:
  - An estimated 4.6 percent of the total population and 10 percent of children under 5 died in Southern and Central Somalia
  - Lower Shabelle, Mogadishu, and Bay were hardest hit, with the proportion of children under 5 who died in these areas estimated to be about 18 percent, 17 percent, and 13 percent, respectively
  - Mortality peaked at about 30,000 excess deaths per month between May and August 2011

## KEY FIGURES

<b>Population (UNDP, 2005)</b>	<b>7.5m</b>
<b>GDP per capita (UN statistics division 2009)</b>	<b>\$220.3</b>
<b>% pop living on less than US\$1 per day (UNDP/World Bank 2002)</b>	<b>43%</b>
<b>Life expectancy (UNDP 2011)</b>	<b>51 years</b>
<b>% population using improved drinking water sources (UNDP 2009)</b>	<b>30%</b>
<b>Number of people in humanitarian emergency and crisis</b>	<b>1.05m</b>
<b>Number of people in stress</b>	<b>1.67m</b>
<b>Number of acutely malnourished children under five</b>	<b>215,000</b>
<b>Number of internally displaced people</b>	<b>1.1m</b>
<b>Number of Somali refugees in the Horn of Africa and Yemen</b>	<b>1m</b>

## CAMPAIGNS

### STORIES

- Partner organisation HIJRA contributed a Blog story "A day in the life: Mogadishu ambulance driver"
- Visit our facebook page on [www.facebook.com/OxfaminSomalia](http://www.facebook.com/OxfaminSomalia) to read three stories shared to mark International Women's Day:
  - "Supporting women to improve their livelihoods"
  - "Empowering young women through education"
  - "Naag la'aan waa naf la'aan" - To be without a woman is to be without life"

### INTERVIEWS

- Rectifying Somalia's wrong turn – Al Jazeera Oxfam partner Fartuun Adan of Elman Peace Center quoted <http://www.aljazeera.com/indepth/opinion/2013/04/20134995914835960.html>
- Fartun Adan, head of Oxfam partner Elman Peace Center and co-founder of Sisters Somalia, quoted in New Statesman story: Alleged gang rape and suppression of press freedom in Somalia <http://www.newstatesman.com/world-affairs/2013/02/alleged-gang-rape-and-suppression-press-freedom-somalia>
- Al Jazeera covered the Arms Trade Treaty as a result of a push from media lead, Geno Teofilo with an interview with campaign manager Ed Pomfret, "Somalia where an arms embargo failed"
- BBC Focus on Africa radio show also interviewed Ed Pomfret after the Arms Trade Treaty was passed



SAACID staff during an Infant and Young Child Feeding group session in Mogadishu.

## OXFAM'S WORK IN SOMALIA

### PROVIDING HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

Oxfam supports those affected by drought and conflict in Somalia with water, sanitation and public health interventions, emergency food security and livelihoods support and treatment for acute malnutrition. In Banadir region, over 2,600 people benefitted from the availability of newly constructed latrines. Sanitary kits were distributed to young women and training was conducted focusing on improving knowledge on water utilization and good hygiene practices. Treatment of malnourished children, pregnant and lactating women continued in 17 sites in Mogadishu. In April, over 20,000 women and children benefitted from this support.

Provision of fuel subsidies for the running of boreholes in Afmadow district in Lower Juba is ongoing. Access to water increased for over 34,000 people as a result. In Jilib district in Middle Juba, latrine construction continued, with those completed in April supporting over 1,000 people. Shallow wells were rehabilitated and hygiene promotion conducted in the same area contributing to a more holistic approach to hygiene and sanitation. Cash for work activities and seed distribution took place in Jilib in March and April, increasing opportunities for community members to earn an income. Oxfam supported 140,183 people through humanitarian activities.



Shallow well rehabilitation and seed distribution took place in Middle and Lower Juba. Photos: WASDA

### REBUILDING SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOODS

A person's livelihood refers to their "means of securing the basic necessities - food, water, shelter and clothing- of life". Therefore, livelihoods are activities, involving securing water, food, medicine, shelter, clothing etc. and the ability to acquire above necessities, working either individually or as a group. Oxfam's support in rebuilding livelihoods helps to strengthen the resilience of communities to shocks by ensuring there is adequate linkage between relief and development. In March, Oxfam established clubs that focus on disaster risk reduction and how it can be actualized in Togdheer and Galbeed regions. Furthermore, over 100 people took part in training on coping with the changes to the environment and how these changes can be managed.

Savings and credit groups were established with 240 members after Oxfam held a training workshop on community managed micro finance. Oxfam supported over supported over 1,130 people improve their livelihoods in March and April.

### EDUCATION

Oxfam programmes in Somalia are improving access to basic quality education and offering technical training. In March and April, Oxfam made it possible for over 1,500 children to enroll in primary school by providing full scholarships in Banadir and Galbeed region. Additionally, 31 teachers were recruited and trained and school uniforms distributed to 400 students. Oxfam supported 2,789 through this programme.

### FOR MORE INFORMATION

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