

# Dr. Hawa Abdi Foundation



TWENTY  
18



## *Keeping Hope Alive* Program Highlights



# Our Story

In 1983, Dr. Hawa Abdi opened a small women's health clinic on her family's rural farmland outside Mogadishu. Over the next decade, she and her family turned the clinic into the 400-bed Dr. Hawa Abdi General Hospital. When war broke out, Dr. Abdi opened the hospital and the surrounding land to more than 90,000 displaced people: she welcomed anyone to the de-facto camp, as long as they agreed to two rules – they could not identify by their clan or commit domestic violence. Since the war, many families have moved on, but others have made Dr. Abdi's land their permanent home. In recent years, the camp has been renamed **Hope Village** as a measure of dignity for the residents. In Hope Village, they find **safety, justice, and high-quality services**.

Somalia is now a post-conflict state that still suffers frequent political, health, and environmental emergencies. At the Dr. Hawa Abdi Foundation (DHAF), we respond to these crises and ensure that Hope Village is a place of safety for our residents. At the same time, we are working to make Hope Village – and Somalia – more sustainable.

## Hope Village

Sanitation | Agriculture | Entrepreneurship  
Feeding Programs

The nucleus of our operations is Hope Village, where people can access **shelter, food, education, healthcare, and other services**. Hope Village is a permanent home for more than 300 families (10,000+ people) and a temporary sanctuary for many others.

## Somalia

Healthcare | Education  
Emergency Response

We offer mobile health clinics, training, and community health education in neighboring towns. During Ramadan and times of drought, Hope Village offers a program to provide free meals to nearby residents.

## Africa

Human Rights Education  
Sustainability

We plan to share our resources and experience by piloting a professional development program for educators in other post-conflict nations in our region.



# EMERGENCY RESPONSE

## Stepping Up in Times of Need

### Crisis Response

In 2017, when Somalia experienced the most severe drought in Somalia's living memory, we helped provide life-saving food, clean water, and healthcare to thousands of people. In Hope Village, we set up a **feeding center** to provide daily meals to more than **600 people each day**, half of whom were children.

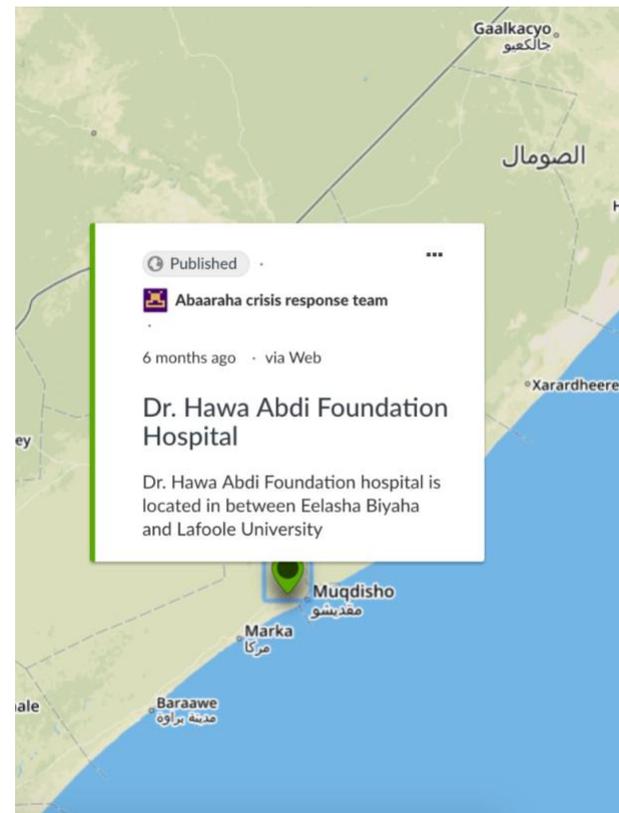
At the Dr. Hawa Abdi General Hospital, we scaled up our healthcare operations and treated more than **3,500** children for malnutrition and more than **150** for life-threatening severe watery diarrhea.

### Drought Crisis Mapping

We also teamed up with a group of volunteers from the Somali diaspora – **Abaaraha** – who created a unique, online, interactive map (shown right) that let us track the nationwide crisis. In real time, we tracked disease outbreaks, numbers of deaths, where food had been delivered and where food was needed, and how to coordinate other aid efforts. We are partnering with Abaraaha to use this technology to prepare for future crises.

### Ramadan Feeding Program

Every Ramadan – the holy month in Somalia – we offer free meals to 500 people every day, the majority of whom are women and children. In 2018, we provided a total of **14,500** people with meals.





# HEALTHCARE

## Providing Free, High-Quality Care

The Dr. Hawa Abdi General Hospital sits at the heart of Hope Village. Since 1983, Somalis have been drawn to Dr. Hawa's willingness to **give free and equal refuge and medical care to the vulnerable and the displaced.**

The medical staff at the 400-bed hospital provides free medical care for both the population of the camp, and the entire Lower Shabelle region, serving as the only source of free medical care in a 60-km radius. Every month, we treat an average of 600 – 1000 patients.

### Ongoing Services

- **Pediatric Care**, including an ambulatory, inpatient pediatric ward and Intensive Therapeutic Feeding Centres (inpatient & outpatient)
- **Maternal, Obstetrics & Gynecological Care**, with caesarian surgical capacity and ultrasound examination
- **Inpatient and Outpatient Care**
- **Emergency Care**
- **Surgical Services**, with two operating theatres
- **Isolation Ward**
- **Cholera Treatment Centre (CTC)**, for seasonal outbreaks of cholera
- **Diagnostic Centre**, including blood screen grouping, urine analysis, *paracheck* for malaria, and a haematology machine
- **Pharmacy**
- **Mobile medical clinics**, led by Dr. Deqo Mohamed

### Healthcare Training Program, in Partnership with Chatham University

The **Healthcare Training Program**, in conjunction with Chatham University in Pittsburgh, is an innovative new project connecting practicing nurses in the Dr. Hawa Abdi General Hospital and nursing students in Somalia to Chatham faculty for university-level education over the Internet. The distance-learning program will equip the Somali students and practitioners with nursing and public health fundamentals, as well as English skills.

### Goals

- **Secure a steady supply of medicine** to treat our patients
- **Purchase essential medical equipment**, such as X-ray and 3D ultrasound machine
- **Strengthen hospital statistics collection** through training our staffers on health statistics
- Equip our hospital to become a **training facility: seek funding** to sustain Healthcare Training Program and expand to provide training to more of our neighbors
- **Procure adequate funding** to pay for the salary of our dedicated medical team



# EDUCATION

## Building the Next Generation

At the **Waqaf-Dhiblawe Primary School** and the **Dr. Hawa Abdi High School**, we are striving to ensure a brighter future for Somalia by providing our children with **new skills** and **opportunities**, and a fundamental understanding of **human rights** and their own **political agency**. Both schools have a 1:1 ratio of boys and girls and are partly funded by modest, annual contributions from families in the Village.

### **Waqaf-Dhiblawe Primary School – 600 students**

The Waqaf-Dhiblawe Primary School teaches Somali, Arabic, English, Science, Math, Religious Studies Art, and Social Studies to students in grades 1 – 5. The school has its own library, which opened in 2013 to introduce a culture of reading in the Village.

### **Dr. Hawa Abdi High School – 200 students**

At the Dr. Hawa Abdi High School, 200 students take courses in English, Arabic, Math, History, Geography, Science, and Religious Studies.

In both schools, we encourage teachers to address misbehavior and conflict with peaceful mediation, rather than punishment.

### **Human Rights Education, in Partnership with Yale University**

Our high school is piloting a four-year **curriculum on human rights and conflict resolution** designed by a team of students at Yale University, which focuses on women's rights and how to take political action on human rights issues. To better equip our teachers to implement the curriculum and learn how to create student-centered curricula of their own, we are launching **Aspire** – a professional development training for teachers in post-conflict zones.

### **Goals**

- **Provide annual training** for teachers in curriculum development, English, and early childhood education
- **Initiate** home visits to stress the importance of girls' education and encourage families to send their girls to school to reach a goal of having **80 percent of girls in school**
- **Secure funding** to reinstate feeding program to serve students breakfast and lunch



# WASH & CHW

## Water, Sanitation, Hygiene & Community Health Workers

DHAF is committed to creating a **sanitized and safe community** in our Village through our WASH program. Upholding hygienic practices is integral to saving lives and maintaining a level of dignity amongst our families, many of whom have escaped the pressures of war and starvation.

### WASH

We operate a bore well that serves as the **sole source of free drinking water within a 30-km radius**. This well pumps potable water from an underground source, which is purified using chlorine tablets and stored in covered containers before being distributed to the population for both drinking and washing purposes. Our provision of clean water reduces the risk of the spread of water-borne diseases.

We strongly encourage the residents of Hope Village to carefully wash their hands with soap before and after defecation, as well as before food preparation. Likewise, the Dr. Hawa Abdi General Hospital is equipped with hand-washing stations and our cleaners are tasked with the maintenance of a sterile environment.

### Community Health Workers

Currently, our Community Health Workers (CHWs) carry out household visits once a week to inform families about best health practices, ensure healthcare follow-ups, and distribute materials, such as soap, to improve health statuses in the Village.

### Goals

- **Train and employ more CHWs** in order to increase the frequency of CHWs' household visits and ensure adequate follow-up
- **Build an incinerator** to ensure best practices in the disposal of biological wastes
- **Install** individual home-based water filtration systems, & construct permanent washrooms
- **Increase the number of permanent latrines** available at the our schools
- **Introduce the use of *Moringa oleifera* roots** as a scientifically-proven organic means to purify water at the household level



# FOOD SECURITY & ENVIRONMENT

## Promoting Sustainability through Smart Farming

In southern Somalia, twenty years of food aid have left farmers bankrupt and people aid dependent. And over the next 30 years, climate change will become the biggest problem facing the Horn of Africa.

To face these challenges, we are building a reliable farming system with **low-cost and low-tech biotechnological interventions**. They aim to achieve self-sufficiency and independency from aid, as well as serve as a model for agricultural sustainability for the entire country.

### Cultivating our Farmland

We have a fully sustainable, **5-hectare farm**, in which we employ organic smart-farming techniques to incorporate a diversity of plants such as bananas, lemon, papaya, sesame, sorghum, and local legumes.

One particularly important plant is the **Moringa** tree, which is drought-resistant, highly nutritious, and thrives in the Somali climate. We planted over a hundred *Moringa* trees in 2013, and we look to serve as the point of dissemination for *Moringa* products and knowledge in the whole of Somalia.

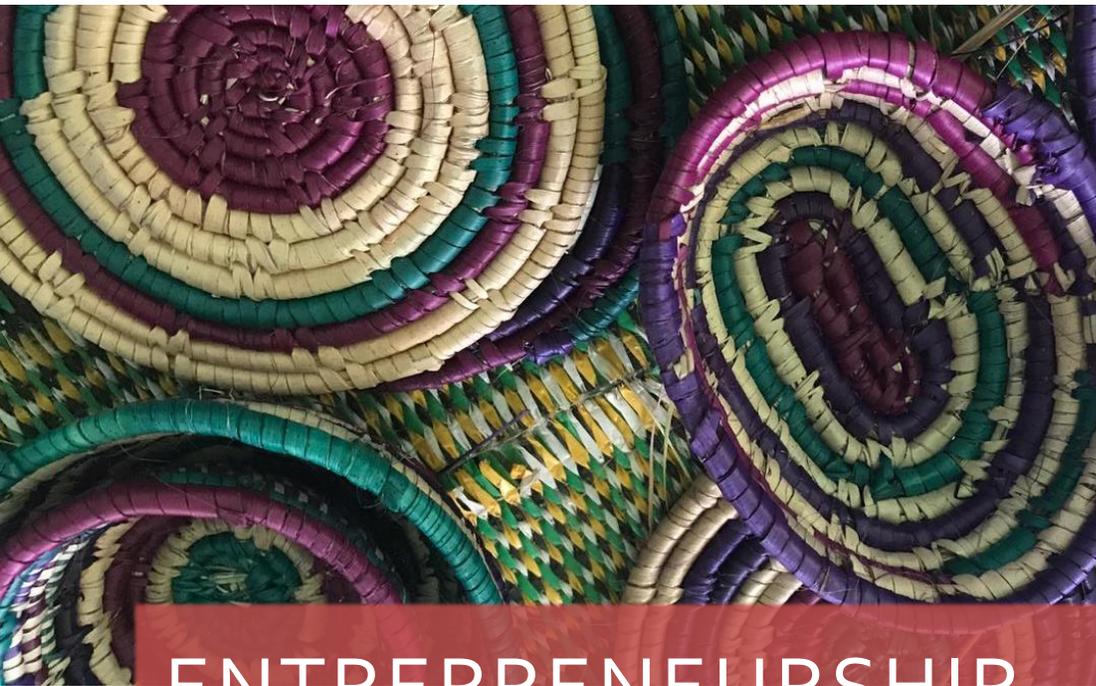
Another 14-hectare of land will engage in a **farming co-op system** in 2019, whereby 1 hectare of farmland is allocated to five families. One-third of their harvests are sold for profit, one-third for sustenance, and one-third to be contributed back to maintain the co-op system and infrastructure.

### Constructing a Sustainable Village, in Partnership with Earth Blocks

We are working with Earth Block International to build more durable, sustainable housing structures for our residents and a new community center. Earth Block's construction method will also guarantee employment to many residents of Hope Village.

### Goals

- **Plant 500 more *Moringa oleifera* trees**
- **Drill a borewell and reconstruct the canal** in order to maximize the productivity of the farmland
- **Begin production of commercial agricultural products**, such as banana and sunflowers
- **Initiate a community-wide tree-planting project**, emphasizing the involvement of children, youth, and women
- **Find supporters to reinstate the co-op farming system** in 2019



# ENTREPRENEURSHIP

## Creating Income-Generating Opportunities

We believe that to achieve long-lasting peace, we need to start **rebuilding sustainable livelihoods**. We aim to provide **income-generating opportunities** to displaced families and women, giving them the resources and skills needed to elevate their economic conditions.

### **Hargala Initiative, in Partnership with Yale University**

Faculty and students at the Jackson Institute for Global Affairs at Yale University have created a business plan for entrepreneurs in Hope Village to generate income by creating and selling handmade woven baskets and sell honey. This initiative is in a pilot stage. Opportunities exist for expanding products, contingent on identifying and training local management.

### **Moringa Organic Market**

Farmers living in Hope Village do not have access to markets where they can sell their produce. The **Moringa Organic Market** would serve as an agricultural business hub for more than 30 farmers and entrepreneurs to capture the market demand of residents from Mogadishu commuting to and from Afgooye town. The open-air concept, with an emphasis on local, organic, and fresh produce will be coupled with the idea of social impact, attracting a youthful and socially-oriented audience.

### **Goals**

- **Procure funding** to construct the Moringa Organic Market
- **Uncover innovative ways** to create value-added products for sale
- **Expand our Entrepreneurship** department

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