



EVERY HUMAN

FEBRUARY 2020

What's happening in Somalia?

All the latest news, updates, and projects from our team in Mogadishu.

Transforming lives through farming

Hear from Khadija, who has brought her barren land back to life.



EVERY HUMAN *IS BACK*

Welcome to our second edition of Every Human!

Each month, Every Human adds humanity to your inbox, bringing you the latest news, unique stories from our projects, and first-hand testimonies from our teams on the ground. In each issue, we'll focus on one country; this month, February, our spotlight is on Somalia.

Keep reading to learn from our Q&A with Ahmed, who helps drought-affected farmers to revive their land.

You'll also meet Khadija, who we trained as a farming leader; she taught what she learnt to her community, and to her husband and children. You can learn all about orphan sponsorship from our child welfare officer, Ridwan, and from Luul and Hawa, a mother and daughter whose lives have been transformed by sponsorship.

In each issue, we'll give the floor to one of our inspiring local staff members who'll fill you in on the details first-hand. This month, meet 26-year-old Fatima, our communications officer in Somalia.

We hope you enjoy getting to know us a bit better, and from Every Human here at Human Appeal, thank you.

Cover: Four-year-old orphan, Nafisa, is supported through our orphan sponsorship programme.

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A mother cradles her child at a camp for displaced families in Mogadishu.

LIVE FROM SOMALIA

After the worst drought in nine years, which decimated crops, killed livestock and raised food prices, Somalia was hit by the worst flooding in recent history this winter.

Almost half of all livelihoods depend on agriculture in Somalia, and the United Nations has warned that **2 million** Somalis are at risk of starvation. Last year, **770,000** were forced to flee their homes because of conflict, drought, and floods.

In all, **4.2 million** people in Somalia, over half of whom are children, need humanitarian assistance.

Our projects

We're helping those who have been displaced by upgrading shelters and providing tents to help **3,600** people in Kahda, Mogadishu, and we're planning to distribute winter kits to **1,680** people over the course of winter. In partnership with GlobalMedic, we've delivered medical hygiene supplies to **seven** hospitals, which will support **5,040** patients.

➤ **15,000** helped through drought-resistant farming.



Last year, together, we helped 84,000 people in Somalia.

We're also about to launch our child protection project, which will support displaced families and their children, providing them with legal, social, and psychological support through **two** mobile teams and **four** protection assistants. We'll also establish a child-friendly space with activities; in all this project will benefit a total of **19,000** people.

As well as tackling the consequences of displacement, we're working to combat its causes.

We're helping farmers to fight drought by providing training on drought-resistant farming, and by installing **50** irrigation pumps to provide water to **2,500** farming families, helping a total of **15,000**.

From emergency to recovery, we want to be there for as many displaced Somalis as we're able to help, providing shelter, medicine, and hygiene kits during the peak of the crisis, and then helping them to build resilience and rebuild their futures through projects that promote protection and help to recover and improve livelihoods.

How your donations are saving lives

In late 2016, Human Appeal Somalia started helping people through a local partner, and our country office officially opened in March 2017. Since then, we've seen year-on-year growth in our impact. In 2017, your donations helped over **44,000** people, in 2018, you supported over **53,000**.

Last year, together, we helped **84,000** people in Somalia through projects that promote healthcare, support livelihoods and food security, and give people access to clean water and sanitary facilities.

In the coming months, we'll be working to improve sanitation facilities for people who have been displaced, and for children across **42** schools, in partnership with UNICEF.

➤ **863 orphans sponsored.**

➤ **19,000 to benefit from child protection project.**



Khadija (left) at her local market, selling the vegetables she grew at her farm.

TURNING DROUGHT AND DEVASTATION INTO A FAMILY FARM

In Luuq and Bardere in the Gedo region of Somalia, we've installed **50** irrigation pumps to support **2,500** farmers at **600** farms. We're training **500** farmers as leaders in good farming practices, giving them the skills to train other farmers.

39-year-old Khadija lives with her husband, Omar, and their nine children in Musawa village, Bardere. She used to

sell vegetables and Omar used to farm; they have **seven** hectares of land but they had been unable to work since last year's drought, which devastated farmland, killed livestock, and resulted in severe water and crop shortages.

"Our land was bare and dry due to the drought. I didn't have the tools and resources to prepare the land for crop production," Khadija explained.

Human Appeal provided Khadija with drought-resistant farming training, and installed an irrigation pump nearby. Khadija passed on what she learnt to her husband, and, today, Khadija and Omar grow chilies, tomatoes, pumpkins, lemons, bananas, beans and sweet potatoes.

"I didn't know about irrigation, and I used to use old farming tools. With the land preparation and irrigations pumps, I'm more confident in my work and I'm able to grow crops and feed my family.

"I'm also able to sell my fruits and vegetables at the market to earn an income... I go to the market on a daily basis, while my husband works on the farm, and my children help him.

"I'm also able to share our produce with my relatives and teach my fellow farmers the knowledge I've learnt."

"[Now] I'm self-reliant and don't depend on anybody."

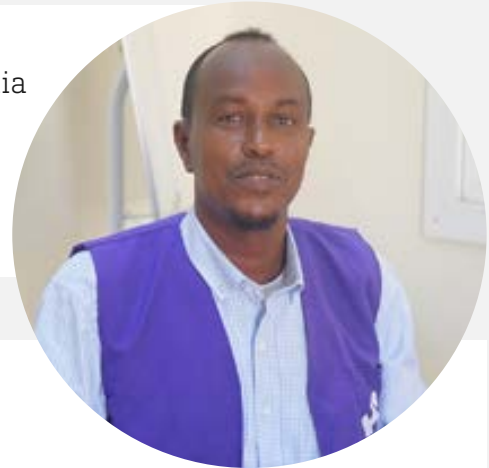
This project is helping vulnerable families to break the cycle of food scarcity, and giving farmers the means to cultivate their land, sell their crops and remain self-reliant.



Khadijah tends to her crops on land that was once barren.

Q&A: HOW DO YOU TRANSFORM FARMING FOR A WHOLE COMMUNITY?

Ahmed Omar Salihi has been a field officer in Somalia since 2018. He helped to implement our drought-resistant farming and irrigation project, working to help Khadija, and **2,499** other farmers.



What's a typical morning at work like for you?

On a typical day, I start by checking on the land preparation and crop production with the farmers. I love this part of the job and enjoy talking with them and helping them with any farming challenges they might face.

How do you help the farmers?

In addition to the practical training and irrigation pumps that Human Appeal provided, in partnership with the Japanese Embassy, I personally try to encourage the farmers and help them to become independent, so that they can depend on their farming for their livelihood.

It's important to follow up with people we help as it gives them confidence and lets them know they are taken care of, even after the project has ended.

How did you train the farmers?

We hired an agronomist to train them in a conference hall, who taught them about irrigation, seed selection, crop

rotation, land preparation, preventing cross-contamination, as well as all the steps involved in growing, harvesting, packing and storing produce.

How did the training correct farming mistakes?

They were able to turn the theory they learnt into practice on their land. It significantly changed their methods and helped to improve productivity and sustainability, which goes a long way in improving their yields. They also passed their knowledge on to other farmers, so it had a knock-on benefit for the community too.

How does this project impact the wider community?

The skills that we teach the farmers will help them to run a sustainable farming business by increasing their income and yield, and by saving time and costs. This will help to improve the situation for everyone in the village.

THE GLUE THAT BINDS FAMILIES

Ridwan Hassan Hared is Human Appeal's orphan and child welfare officer in Somalia. When you sponsor an orphaned child in Somalia, Ridwan is the one who makes sure it gets to exactly where it's needed.

Every month, **863** of our supporters give a generous donation to some of the most vulnerable children in Mogadishu.

Let's hear from Ridwan about what it's like caring for these children every day.

Frankly, I can say that I didn't choose this job, it chose me! I used to work in the Finance Department and, when I began as the orphan and child welfare officer, I had to carry out both jobs until my replacement was recruited. I definitely learnt to multitask!

But I knew there were so many orphaned children in my country who needed help, and I felt like the best way I could help them was in this role.

So what do I do? Well, I maintain close coordination with the sponsored families, conduct field visits, register orphans for sponsorship, make sure they are protected and safe, ensure they receive their sponsorship on time, and monitor the progress of the children that you, our supporters, help.

The highs and lows

The biggest challenge I face on the job is the fact that there are so many orphans who live outside of Mogadishu, and right now we only

have the capacity to help those in the capital, but I hope we have enough support one day to expand this.

Also, we still have 387 orphans registered and in need of sponsorship, but, right now, there just aren't enough sponsors to support all the orphaned children who need help in Somalia, but I hope this improves soon.



Ridwan Hassan Hared
Orphan and child welfare officer,
Human Appeal, Somalia.

Once, when I had just started out in the orphan sponsorship programme, we were assessing families. I visited a home where the father had died the day before due to a severe illness. I wanted to be as sensitive as possible and to not overwhelm them with questions, but they were so sad at their loss that they really couldn't speak at all.

We've managed to register three of those children as sponsored orphans and they mean a great deal to me, and it means so much to have seen how the programme has helped these children.

Sometimes the impact of orphan sponsorship can be forgotten, especially in comparison with emergencies. But the children we support have been through incredible hardship, and this work truly changes their lives – it helps to pay for their food, water, healthcare, shelter, clothing and education.

It holds families together when the worst happens, and it builds brighter futures. Your support means so much to them, and to me.



Ridwan conducting an assessment on a vulnerable young boy

WHAT SPONSORSHIP MEANS TO LUUL AND HAWA

10-year-old Hawa is a clever little girl. At her school in Wadajir, Mogadishu, her favourite subjects are Maths and English. "I love to study," she told us, "and when I grow up, I want to be a nurse."

And even when she's not at school, Hawa likes to spend her time reading, and helping her mother.

But it wasn't always easy for Hawa to get the schooling that she loves. After her father died, Hawa's mother, Luul, struggled to look after Hawa and her three siblings.



I got into an accident a few months ago and I've not been in my best state," said Luul, "I have another daughter at school and two sons. My younger son is at university but the eldest didn't go because I couldn't afford the fees, so he works casual jobs.

- Luul, Hawa's mother



Thanks to your generous support, we've been able to provide Luul with regular support to help her to care for Hawa. Our orphan sponsorship programme doesn't only help to keep Hawa fed, sheltered and in school, but it has a transformative knock-on effect. It helps to cover the cost of their rent, water, and clothing, which supports the whole family, and helps Luul to afford to keep Hawa's sister in school.



Hawa attends class at Imran Bint Hussein School.



Hawa playing with her cousin.



There's still a chance for my three youngest children. I'm confident that if they can finish their education that they will be able to have better futures. Hawa is happier and more confident since receiving sponsorship, because she's able to go to school and buy her learning materials and other things she needs.

-Luul, Hawa's mother



When a mother like Luul doesn't have to pick, between immediate needs – like food – and long-term needs – like education – then she is empowered to give her children the best start in life.

"I'm thankful to have received the sponsorship; it has made my life better," added Hawa. Your donations relieve some of the pressure and struggle for widowed mothers and their children.

In Somali, Luul means diamond, and, to Hawa, it's the most befitting name possible.

"My mum is as precious as a diamond," she said.

WHAT'S IT LIKE WORKING FOR HUMAN APPEAL IN SOMALIA?

Each month, we pass the mic to one of our field staff members. They're at the forefront of our work, responding to – and even experiencing – crises, while helping local communities to build resilience.

This month, hear from **Fatima Abshir**, a 26-year-old in Mogadishu, and Human Appeal's communications officer in Somalia.



It's my job to be the connection between Human Appeal Somalia and the public. I'm happy to be able to help people by listening to their stories, sometimes during the most fragile time of their lives, and getting their voices across to you. When I'm in the field, I take their photos, record video, and write their stories, always with their permission.

I believe that we must all try to put ourselves in someone else's shoes to see things from a different perspective.

Humans have so much in common, no matter where we are in the world. There's a power in getting these stories out – it builds a bridge between the people who need help and those – like you – who offer to help, and it's also therapeutic for those who are living through difficulties to tell their stories, to feel heard, and to know that there are people out there who care.

I had the great honour of being named the Best Employee of 2018, which I was awarded for my hard work, for showing initiative and for going above and beyond my responsibilities – this award has motivated me to work even harder, and I'm always trying to improve.

My job is exciting and rewarding. It's wonderful to work with diverse people from all walks of life who unite in the common goal of wanting to help the most vulnerable people.

But sometimes, this job can also be very difficult. The insecurity in parts of Somalia can make it difficult to help effectively.

I remember that two years ago in Ramadan, I visited a camp for displaced people in Kahda where we were distributing hot iftar meals. I saw a young woman who was waiting for her meal, she was carrying her very

malnourished child. We chatted and she told me that her child is sick, and that she had three other children at home, one of whom was very ill. When I went back to the camp 10 days later, I went to check on her and found that both of her sick children had died.

It made me incredibly sad. She told me that even though she is mourning two of her children, she still has two more to care for. I wanted to help her, so I raised **\$500** with my friends to help her to start a business. This allowed her to buy and sell vegetables for profit outside her tent in the camp, so that she's able to bring in a regular income and feed her children.

And I think if you speak to most people at the Human Appeal family, you'll find

that they believe the same thing – that we are humanitarians, even when we're not "on the job". As people with means, it's our duty to help people at all times.

You need to be passionate about humanitarian help if you want to work in a development organization. I believe that when you've been blessed with skills, it's your responsibility to use them generously.

I hope you've enjoyed getting to know me a bit better. Look out for my stories and interviews with people from Somalia – you'll even find a couple in this edition of Every Human.

And thank you for doing an outstanding job in helping people for the past **29** years!



Fatima helping arrange the orphan sponsorship payments

SHARED BLESSINGS

Currently, Human Appeal supporters are sponsoring 11,959 orphaned children around the world. 863 of them are in Somalia, including little Hawa. But there are 387 orphans registered with us in Somalia alone who are still awaiting sponsorship from our supporters.

The Prophet, peace be upon him, said,



Whoever embraces an orphan of two Muslim parents by feeding him and giving him drink until he is independent of him, Paradise will certainly be necessary for him. (Malik ibn Al-Harith)



Thank you for continuing to help vulnerable and displaced people in Somalia.