

Monitoring and evaluation Report

Purpose of the trip: **Monitor and evaluate Balanbale school Rehabilitation project**
Monitoring Officer: **Abdirashid Ali Mohamed, SFO Education officer**
Location: **Balanballe, Somalia**
Monitoring date: **23/5/2005-13/6/2006.**
Implemented NGO: **IQRASOM**

Introduction:

I left Mogadishu on 23/05/2006 and my flight took me to Berbera Somaliland as I could not find direct flight to central regions, the purpose of my trip as to carry out a supervisory monitoring task upon Balanballe school rehabilitation funded by Muslim Aid and implemented by IQRASOM local NGO in 2005. Balanballe has a population of 20,000 who are mainly pastoralists and depend on livestock's for their income related purposes.

The main objective of the trip was to monitor:-

1. Completed primary school constructed by IQRA NGO
2. Security,
3. Education
4. Health
5. Water
6. Economy & Commerce

General security Situation Overview:-

I arrived Balanballe on 3/6/2006 without any security problems. Upon my arrival at Balanballe, IQRA NGO officials accompanied by local elders of Balanballe district welcomed me to the town.

Education officer of IQARA NGO and Mr. Mohamed Warsame Beyr one of the elders in the district have expressed much about the general security situation of the town and the surrounding villages as well as the nearby rural settlements where mainly the livestock is kept

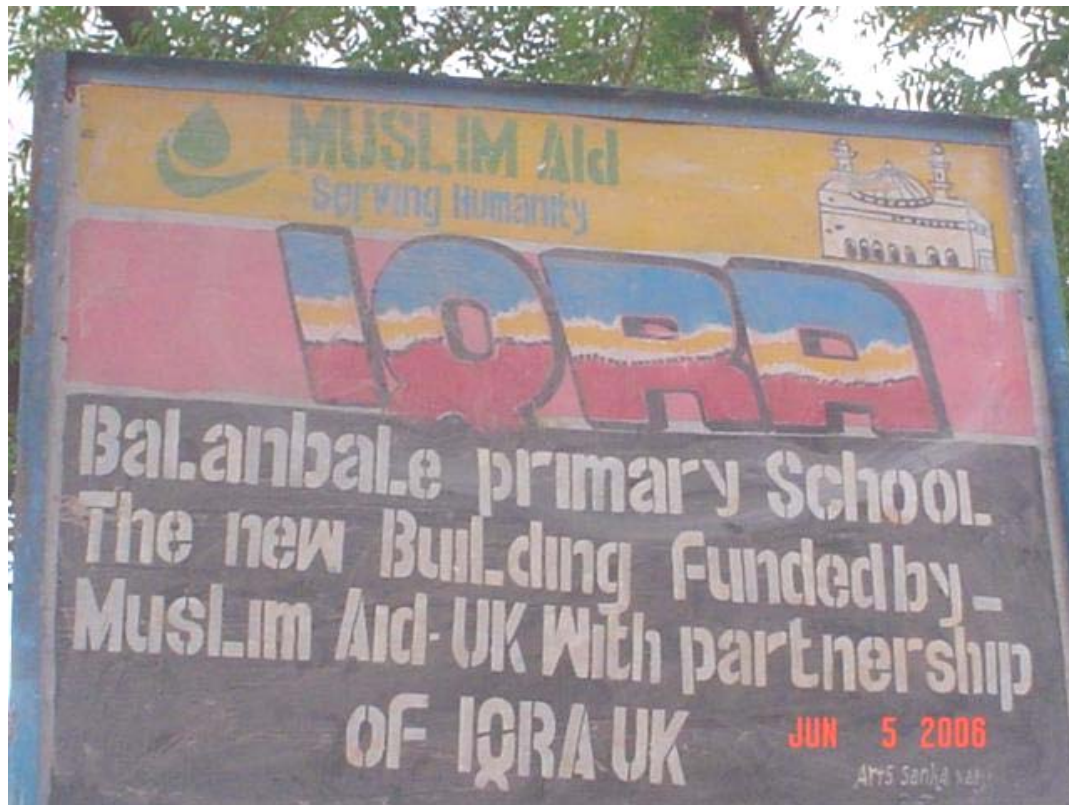
The elder informed me that the traditional leaders of tribes living in Balanballe are managing the security of the town and around Balanballe, as there is no any other local administration system in place since the collapse of the central Somali government way back in 1991. during our conversation with local leader I asked him who is in charge of the traditional leader of elders and here he informed me that anything that is difficult to solve is directly forwarded to **Mr. Ahmed Bare Takoi** who is the general chief of the district and he immediately solves it without any difficulties. When I asked him how he does this, he told me that in this particular district there is mainly only one tribe that inhabits here and for that reason the chief is well respected by all the sub-clans of the tribe and this makes things easier to solve all kind of problems.

General Education Situation Overview:

During my stay at Balanbaale, I paid a visit to former primary school that was used to be managed by former ministry of education for Somalia. When I saw the school, I was so sad to see the destroyed walls of the school. I asked IQRA staffs what has happened to this school and they informed me that the school buildings were being destroyed by the civil war in 1991. IQRA local NGO has built four classes and one toilet with local materials so the Somali children can continue their opportunity for education although it was not so sufficient to the school aged children of the entire town.

Current Education Situation:

IQRA NGO implemented a school rehabilitation construction project funded by MAUK head office. The school reconstruction started on 5th November 2005 and the school entire project was completed on 31st May 2006. The new school composes of 8 classes, 1 office with library, 2 toilets as well as a concrete water reservoir for water storage and surrounded wall were satisfactorily completed. Also 2 other uncompleted toilets were under construction.



To my surprise, Muslim Aid supported school is the only primary school now in place while there is no any secondary school and all Balanballe aged school children have a kind of education opportunity at this stage which as I saw was a great achievement for the community in general. Further details of the school monitoring can be seen clearly on a video tape that I recorded all the events for documentations support purposes.



Balanballe school.

After the collapse of the central government in Somalia in early 1990s education was one of the hardest hit sectors throughout Somalia and Balanballe was not safe from the misfortune, not only the district schools were closed but were looted completely and even the stones and bricks making the walls and fences were partly taken away.

Later as I gathered from elders in Balanballe during my stay IQRASOM made a great effort in re-establishing and reviving the education of the districts so that children get educated.

Between 1990 and 2000 IQRA tried to establish and restore the education of Balanballe, Abbudwaq other districts.

However, Muslim Aid funded school in Balanballe is the largest of its kind in that area.



anbale school This is one of the structures IQRA started as Bal



After Rehabilitation



Number of students:

After the completion of the new rehabilitated school for Balanballe, this has given a new appetite to parents in the town and this has increased the number of students getting enrolled. An important thing to know is that there is no any other school in this town.

# of students	Gender		Teachers
	Boys	Girls	
220	134	86	7

The headmaster informed me that the number of students is growing year after year specially after the school is fully rebuilt.

Fee

In order to sustain the newly rebuilt school, students pay 10,000 to 15,000 So. Shillings, which is less or equivalent to \$1.00 except 35 orphans who are not charged.

Feed back from the community.

Community in Balanballe have been very happy about the rehabilitation of the school and everybody I met expressed that the school stands for a brighter future but also talked about that school still needs further upgrading such as educational equipment, early training equipment and school furniture.

The interview I had with some of the students, I noted that children were happy about the large classrooms compared to hot and narrow cottage rooms they have been learning in before the new school was rebuilt.

Health Situation Overview:

During my stay in Balanbaale town, I noticed that there is no any health facility such as hospital, MCH, TBC and maternity wards in the town. I only noticed that there are some private pharmacies selling drugs. When I asked how has this happened?. I was told that there was hospital in the town before, but the Ethiopian forces destroyed this during Somali – Ethiopia conflict. I asked them where patients or sick people go for treatments.

I was informed that patients are taken to Guryaceel town located 60 KM south of Balanbaale where MSF-Belgium runs a hospital and treat small cases for women and children. All other difficult cases are referred to Galkacayo where the general hospital is located and there all treatments of different cases are carried out.

Actually, I was so sad to see like this town to be without any health facility and I was similarly sad when the local leaders appealed from me to forward their grave news to Muslim Aid Country office here in Mogadishu so a kind of humanitarian assistances can be provided to this vulnerable communities.

Water and Sanitation Overview:

Balanbaale town has 3 boreholes. Out of these three wells, one is not functioning. Balanbaale Diaspora groups living aboard constructed the two functioning wells and local, private company which sells the water to the residents of the town as well as livestock's manages the water privately. During the rain season, water are sold 20,000 So. Sh. per barrel equivalent to one dollar and half while the cost of the water during the hot season are 45,000 So Sh equivalent to three dollars per barrel. Meanwhile, the other well was constructed by the former ministry of water in the past. ICRC repaired the well before the construction of the new wells and as a result, the well now absolutely abandoned. During my stay in Balanballe, I noticed during my visit to the wells sites some poor people begging to receive water for their livestock's as the money they had was not enough for the needed water. Most of these people are pastoralists moving from place to place seeking grazing and

posture for their animals and as a result, they do not have money all the time for their livestock's. Meanwhile, I noticed also during my stay that the need for more wells is important as these two wells are not sufficient to the town residents and livestock's and the danger concerning me is if one well get broken then there will be water scarcity in area.

General Economy and Commerce Overview

Basically, community of the target area income mostly depends on livestock as it is the only basic economy backbone for the entire Somalis. There are other small scale business centers run by the locals living in the town. Also there is 1 international telecommunication company as well as one LINGO that runs free school.

Meanwhile the only active income people who work and earn salary in this town are nationalink staff and IQRA school staff. The rest of the other public depend on living remittance sent from overseas by brothers and families in Diasporas.

Humanitarian Assistancess Appeal:-

During my stay in Balanballe, community local traditional elders invited me after the ceremony for school opening was over and I accepted their invitation. Once I was at the chief house, I was asked to receive greetings on behalf of Muslim Aid Overseas department who have made possible the construction of this school and the sun has risen up again for the Somali children who were before this school in a kind of darkness. They said May Allah SWT bless and reward Muslim Aid for their kind Islamic gesture in helping the needy during difficult times surrounding them and we, who are in a civil war and still stateless. We thank Muslim Aid for all its deeds across the world and in particular for the community of Balanballe, because there was no any LINGO or INGO who ever come forward to implement a kind of important humanely project except Muslim Aid UK for the past 16 years and this is very great achievement for all Somalis especially Balanballe district. Surely many Somali children will finally benefit from this school.

Other Visited Area Abudwaq Town

After the completion of my visit to Balanballe, I visited Abudwaq district which is the largest town of that area which also locates at the Ethiopian border. It has a population of 38,000 up to 40,000. People in Abudwaq have the same needs of Balanballe district.

General security Situation Overview:-

Education principle officers of IQAR NGO Mr Muusa Mohamed Ahmed and Liibaan Dahir Hashi introduced me Mr. Abdirisaq Ali Jama who is District Vice-Chairman of Abudwaq. Here, I asked the officer the general security situation in Abudwaq and I quoted from the officer:-

Mr Abdirisaq informed me that the traditional leaders of the tribe living in Abudwaq are managing the security of the town and around Abudwaq, as there is no any other local administration system in place since the collapse of the central Somali government. During our conversation with the officer I asked him who is in charge of the traditional leader of elders and here he informed me that anything that is difficult to solve is directly forwarded to **Mr. Ahmed Bare Takoi** who is the entire chief of the area who can immediately solve the problem what ever it is, because he is the only man who is respected by every body in the area.

General Education Situation Overview:

During my stay at Abudwaq town, I attended a closing ceremony of a primary school that is run by Iqra NGO. The town has also another primary school which is privately owned. Also the current Iqra primary school of Abudwaq needs an extension of three classes, 1 office, 1 store two toilets and the school fence. Apart from these two primary schools the town has no secondary school. In the case of that a construction or the establishment of a secondary school in Abudwaq district is very important so that the pupils of the town who complete primary can continue their further studies as there is no any secondary in the area.

Health Situation Overview:

During my presence in Abudwaq town, I visited the only TBC exists in the town assisted by WHO with the drug supplies. In the Center I met with Mr Barre Ali Jama who is the Head of the TBC telling me that they do not get any salary and they have been working as volunteers for four years. He also told me that the rent of the TBC site is contributed by the community; Mr Barre also informed me that the center will not be sustainable any longer if the staffs do not get any assistance from any well wishers. Mr Barre had also informed me that there is an MCH in the town which is run by SRCS though it is poorly functioning. After the TBC, Mr Barre headed me to the main hospital of the town which is also does not function at the time being. In the hospital I met with two hospital guards and informed me that the hospital is greatly needed to be function for the community, because these two health posts (TBC and MCH) cannot cover the medical needs of the town, for this town is the largest town of the area.

To get more information about the health issue of the area, after I left the hospital I also met with Mr Mohamed Jama Gele who is one of the town health officers and he told me the health issue in this town is very poor and the community of the town needs medical assistance to any organization that wants to assist this vulnerable community and he added that he would like Muslim aid to open for the community either an MCH or the main hospital of the district if possible.

General Water Situation Overview:

Abudwaq town has 9 Tube-wells. Out of these 9 wells, three are not functioning. Generally, five of the wells were built by former central government and the other four are private wells. Currently, the six wells functioning (four are private and the other two are those built by previous government though they are in the hand of particular people who use them in private).

During the rain season, water is sold 20,000 So. Sh per barrel equivalent to one dollar and half while the cost of the water during the hot season is 45,000 So Sh equivalent to three dollars per barrel.

During my presence in Abudwaq, I paid a visit to the water sites where I saw more people seeking water for their animals and themselves. Most of these people are pastoralists moving from place to place seeking grazing and posture for their animals and as a result, they do not have money all the time for their livestock's. My staying in the town I knew that the town needs for more wells, because as these six wells are not sufficient to the town residents and nomads with their livestock's.

General Economy and Commerce Overview

Basically, community of the target area income mostly depends on livestock as it is the only basic economy backbone for the entire Somalis. There are also other business centers run by the locals living in the town. Also there are four international telecommunication companies as well as one LINGO (IQRA) that runs free school.

Although the only active income people who work and earn salary in this town are those who work for the above mentioned telecommunication companies' staff and IQRA school staff. The rest of the other public depend on living with the remittances sent from abroad by their relatives.

Other Visited Area Dhabad Town

After my visits to the above-mentioned towns, I also reached Dhabad town that locates 40 KM in the east of Abudwaq town. The town also has the similar problems of the other previous mentioned towns. Apart from water that there is only one borehole which cannot cover the water needs of the area. To make matters worse if this borehole broken or went something wrong in it the community and their livestock's will face a great danger as there is not any other well of the area.

Health Situation Overview:

During my presence in Dhabad town, I knew that there is not any health facility such as hospital, MCH, TBC and maternity wards in the town. I also noticed that there are only some private pharmacies selling drugs. When I asked a resident how has this happened? He told that there is a hospital in the town which was built by Somali Diaspora in the area, but unfortunately the hospital is not functioning at this time, because it has not got a funding mechanism to carryout its operations so that the hospital became dwelling as housing even though, they promised that they will evacuate the hospital as soon as they see accessible relief organization that is going to assist the community on the health issue specially at the hospital.

In addition to that while I was making my assessment I had a conversation with one of the community elders on the health issue asking him where patients go for treatments.

He informed me that the patients are taken to Guryaceel district town located 190 KM south of dhabad where MSF-Belgium hospital runs and treat small cases for women and children. All other difficult cases are referred to Galkacayo where the general hospital is located and there all treatments of different cases are carryout.

Actually, I was so sad to see such community to be without any health facility and I was similarly sad when the local leaders appealed from me to forward their grave news to Muslim Aid UK office to offer them a humanitarian assistances to this vulnerable community.

General Economy and Commerce Overview

Basically, community of the target area their income mostly depends on livestock as it is the only basic economy backbone for the entire Somalis. There are other small-scale business centers run by the locals living in the town. The rest of the other public depend on living remittances sent from overseas by brothers and families in Diasporas. While there is not any international telecommunication service in the town.

General Education Situation Overview:

During my presence at Dhabad, I paid a visit to the primary school of the town run by IQRA LINGO, which is the only primary school that locates in the town, the school consists of three classes, one office, two toilets and one ground water pond as the school head master told me that the school needs an extension of other three classes, two toilets and the fence in the future, for, every new school year the number of the students are increasing and all these new students should get their separate classes as well. The head master also informed me that the town has not any secondary school too.

General security Situation Overview:-

Education principle officers of IQAR NGO Mr.Musse Mohamed Ahmed and Mr. Liiban Dahir Hashi introduced me to Mr. Aden Abdinor Galaal(Aden Gabbi) who is one of the elders of Dhabad town whom I asked the general security situation in the area of Dhabad town

The elder informed me that the traditional leaders of the tribe living in Dhabad are managing the security of the town and around, as there is not other local administration system in place. While I was having a conversation with Mr Gabbi I asked him who is in charge of the traditional leader of elders and here in the area, he informed me that anything that is difficult to solve is directly forwarded to **Mr. Ahmed Bare Takoi** who is the entire chief of the whole area, in this case he can solve any problem without difficulty. When I asked him how he can do this difficult task, he informed me that in this particular area there is only one tribe that inhabits here and for that reason the chief is well respected by all the sub-clans of the tribe and this makes things easier for him to solve all kind of problems.

Recommendation:

During my field trip for monitoring IQRA NGO primary schools in the areas I have also visited Dhabad primary school and I am recommending the following actions to be taken if possible.

- I am recommending that further schools are rehabilitated/constructed in the area
- I am also strongly recommending an establishment of an MCH (Mother and Child Health) and any other kind of a health facility in Dhabad, Balanbale and Abudwaq towns to serve the needy poor Somali families both those who live in the towns and their pastoralists who are always dying of preventable diseases.
- I finally recommend that water wells are dug in the area because there is a great need of safe and clean water in the area..