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HABITAT HOUSING PROJECT TARGET VULNERABLE SOMALI RETURNEES

VIDEO

BUILDING HOUSE

HAWA'S BUILDING

SULEIMAN ON-CAMERA

AYAHA CAMP

AUDIO

NARRATION

After years of exile in Ethiopia, the Suleiman family has returned home to Somalia. One million refugees have returned in the past decade. Most live in absolute poverty. (12")

In need of shelter, the Suleimans built temporary accommodation in less than a day, says 35 year-old widow Hawa Suleiman. (9")

SULEIMAN: (In Somali)

"I was forced to learn. There was no one to build for us at the refugee camp." (6")

NARRATION

Most of the 6,000 residents of the Ayaha Camp outside Hargeisa are women and children. The standard house is a single round hut on a bentwood framework with flimsy covering of cloth, sheeting and metal pieces. But, it cannot withstand inclement weather and fire is a constant danger. (20")

WOMAN GOES INTO HUT

NARRATION

Every day, 55 year-old widow Sara Shiil Bulale, struggles to feed her 12 children. She is unemployed and her children do not attend school. (9")

SOMALI ON-CAMERA

SARA: (In Somali)

"I have no income. There is no work here. My children have to beg for money." (6")

SARA'S FAMILY EATING

NARRATION

But now, thanks to a Japanese funded project being implemented by Habitat, the UN human settlements programme, formerly displaced people like Sara and her family could find a decent place to live and also acquire adequate work skills. (14")

HABITAT STAFF SHOWS
COMMUNITY HOUSING MODEL

The community is learning about the construction of their new homes. Habitat staff indicate that more than 3,000 people will benefit from the construction of 340 housing units. The elderly, widows, the disabled and families with small children will be the first to benefit from this project.

The project has more to offer than just providing shelter, says Habitat's Onno Van Den Heuval. (25")

VAN DER HEUVAL ON-CAMERA

VAN DER HEUVAL: (In English)

"It's not only to simply construct houses. The approach is that of a self-help housing project. So

the people will learn how to build their own house.” (11”)

NARRATION

COMMUNITY LEADER TALKS TO WOMEN

At a briefing, Mihia Jibril Ahmed, Head of Ayaha’s Women’s Committee, said that 400 people will receive practical training in construction, quarrying and brick-making techniques. The project will also train 30 Hargeisa municipal staff in planning and managing public services. For Mihia and thousands of women in Ayaha, the future certainly looks brighter. (24”)

AHMED ON-CAMERA

MIHIA JIBRIL AHMED: (In Somali)

“When we came here there was nothing. Things are slowly progressing. The most important thing that we have now is peace. We are gradually becoming more independent too.” (11”)

NARRATION

AYAHA CAMP

Ayaha is one of the sites targeted for assistance by the UN’s humanitarian agencies. In view of the scale and urgency of the situation, the aim is to provide the poorest of the poor with a decent place to live, security, and economic independence. (20”)

DAAMI CAMP

UN LOGO

This report was prepared for the United Nations. (3”)