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GENDER EQUITY

SCHOOL ENVIRONMENT AND EDUCATION DEVELOPMENT FOR SOMALIA (SEEDS) PROJECT — SOMALIA



CHALLENGE

The burden of inadequate access to water and sanitation falls heavily on women and girls. On average, women and girls in developing countries walk six kilometers per day, carrying 20 liters of water. In Somalia, only 37 percent of the student population is female, and a lack of proper sanitation facilities in schools continues to keep many from attending, as cultural norms require absolute privacy for girls when using the latrines.

APPROACH

The SEEDS project worked to improve the academic success of students in Somalia, particularly girls. The program focused on providing access to water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) facilities, promoting hygiene education, and improving the capacity of teachers and government officials to deliver quality education. SEEDS created and delivered training tools on good hygiene and sustainable management of WASH facilities. This included developing hygiene and education clubs, each with an equal number of girls and boys. Throughout its work, SEEDS emphasized the importance of adequate and separate latrines for girls and boys when constructing or rehabilitating facilities in schools.

SEEDS

LOCATION: Somalia
DURATION: 2008-2012
FUNDING: \$12 million
IMPLEMENTING PARTNER: Mercy Corps

IMPACT

- 32,337 new students in schools, of whom 12,666 were girls.
- Shortened distances for women and girls to collect water.
- 359 latrines were constructed and another 189 were rehabilitated in 114 schools.
- 213 handwashing facilities were installed in 90 schools.
- Five water points were completed, benefitting 151,816 people.
- 681 people, including teachers, parents, and students, were trained on good hygiene and sanitation behaviors.
- In FY 2011, 3,686 female students were provided access to improved WASH facilities and practices.

