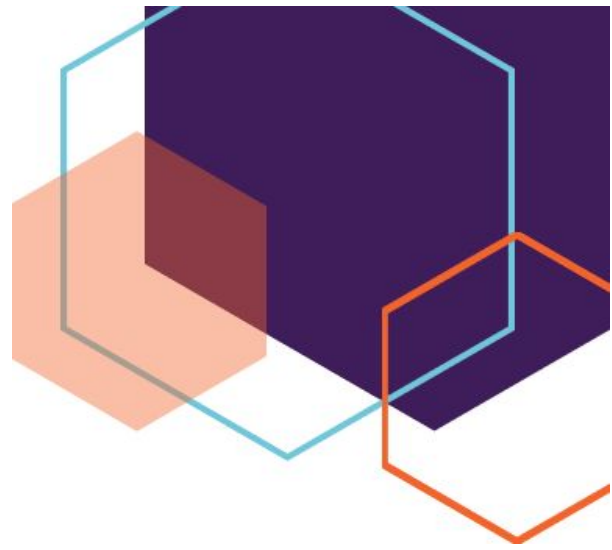

ASEP PROFILE



ACTION FOR SOCIAL & ECONOMIC PROGRESS





Overview

Action for Social and Economic Progress (ASEP) is a Somali NGO active in Somalia for over 25 years. Since its establishment in 1995, ASEP has implemented numerous projects in the humanitarian and development core sectors and has gained significant knowledge and technical expertise in multiple sectors such as Water Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH), Livelihoods, Education, Protection, Peace and Governance, Emergency Response; and Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Reduction.

Vision

To be a leading relief and development organization partnering with a prosperous Gedo community that is peaceful, self-reliant, and responsibly harnessing its natural resources for its development.

Mission

To facilitate WASH, Livelihoods improvement and strengthen resilience amongst agro-pastoralists, pastoralists, riverine communities, urban poor, internally displaced people and their host communities living in and around Jubbaland State of Somalia and South West Somalia.

Values

Honesty and integrity in all our actions, professionalism in approaches, trustworthiness in our dealings, justice and equity for all, and solidarity with the communities we serve.

Culture

Transparency and accountability; effectiveness and efficiency in service delivery, participation and constructive engagement; and relevant and quality programming



Our Impact Sectors

ASEP reinforces the Somali National Development (SNDP), UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and the Somali Humanitarian Plan (HRP). ASEP demonstrates accountability and transparency in delivering high quality and impact-driven programs and applies participatory methods while designing, managing, and implementing projects and integrating social inclusion and gender equality principles throughout its programs. ASEP has extensive experience working with partners in humanitarian and development sectors with key focus areas being WASH, Livelihoods, Education, Peace and Governance, and DRR and resilience.

Water Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

Water and sanitation are individual rights and basic human needs. The risk of people contracting infectious diseases is higher during and after emergencies. Inadequate sanitation, poor hygiene practices, and lack of clean water access may lead to disease outbreaks. Water access also plays a key role in restricting production and livelihoods. Water also plays a key role in conflicts as it determines the clans' borders and the Degaans, which is a term used to describe a geographical region. The provision of adequate water and sanitation is fundamental to community development and preserving their dignity.

ASEP endeavors to contribute towards increasing access and affordability of water through diversification of water supply systems, increasing community capacity to manage and better use water resources supported by improved and appropriate sanitation and hygiene practices. We employ appropriate and innovative technologies such as sand dams, protected hand-dug wells, boreholes, rainwater harvesting schemes, gravity-flow schemes, and infiltration galleries. We promote beneficiary and stakeholder participation in the planning, implementation, and management of the WASH facilities. From the outset of implementation, community participation takes the form of involving beneficiaries, civic agencies, and local authorities. We have supported successful Private Public Partnership (PPP) models in water service management and delivery.

In the sanitation sector, we build and rehabilitate toilets and bathrooms, taking into consideration the quality in the construction, usability, and sustainability of the facilities. Our approach ensures inclusiveness, gender empowerment, and protection of the most vulnerable. Our gender-sensitive and disability-friendly facilities with lockable doors provide safety, privacy, and comforts of use to women and people with

disabilities. We also shorten the distance to sanitation facilities to reduce the risk of gender violence.

Livelihoods

ASEPs Agriculture and Livelihood program is designed to improve the current and future livelihoods of beneficiary communities. We concentrate on managing natural resources and supporting market-oriented food production. The livelihoods program targets smallholder grain and dairy farmers and aims to increase their productivity, individual incomes, and sustainability in farming. ASEP provides training to farmers in order to strengthen their capacity and improve their skills.

We are proud of our support of agricultural value chains and markets. We support value-chain improvement initiatives for sustainable horticultural and agricultural crops to help farmers increase the production scale, delivery quality, and reduce costs and barriers, and expand their access to domestic and regional markets. .We help connect farmers to buyers and establish direct linkages to reduce the information gap about the market for their product and sponsor the creation of farmers' associations to empower the farmers and enable them to coordinate and collaborate their activities. Our input supply system is helping farmers learn and get farm inputs that are affordable & accessible to them and appropriate and safe for consumers. With greenhouse technology, we help farmers carry out germination effectiveness trials. We also provide farmers with various training that improves their skills, and we provide water for irrigation of farmlands. We also support innovative and appropriate Income Generating Activities (IGA) for IDPs and vulnerable community groups.

Education

Everyone is entitled to access education, even in a situation of a humanitarian crisis. Education is crucial for Somalia's development and stability. Millions of children in Somalia do not attend school; the reason is lack of a safe route to school, schools have been destroyed, or lack of adequate conditions (e.g., no bathrooms, lack of access to clean water, etc.). The more children have unrestricted access to education and regularly attend school, the more support they can lend to their community and the local economy. ASEP implements projects to ensure children have access to education and support children to attend school in even in crisis-affected areas, thus creating long-term prospects. Our WASH activities in schools tackle the underlying factors that underlie the unsustainability of WASH facilities in schools. In all our school WASH interventions, we ensure that school communities are engaged at every stage of the activities while also working through established local structures.

In our projects, we build and rehabilitate schools that have been destroyed during natural disasters or armed conflicts. We prioritize providing schools with WASH services and clean water. We build rainwater tanks to store clean and healthy water. We supply the schools with supplies and equipment, depending on the situation. To improve hygiene, we provide schools with handwashing stations and hygiene awareness. We also offer teachers and the students capacity building and training. We provide Menstrual Hygiene Management (MHM) facilities to improve the girls' school attendance and understanding of menstrual management. ASEP is known for its successful use of the School Led Total Sanitation (SLTS) approach to promote hygiene in schools. This methodology is widely adopted and considered 'best practice' in sanitation behavior change.

Peace and Governance

The conflicts in Somalia are at the root of the recurrent humanitarian disasters, including famines, massive human displacements, deplorable shelter situations, health emergencies, widespread poverty, hunger, and exposure to abuse and violence. ASEP engages at the ground level with local peace committees to promote peacebuilding initiatives geared towards rebuilding community life when disabled by tragedy and conflict. These programs seek to help identify community goals and priorities by encouraging citizen participation and creating an enabling environment where affected communities can articulate and advocate for their socio-economic and political interests. This work is done through civic education, lobbying and advocacy, and partnership development. While adopting a do-no-harm principle, reconciliation, conflict resolution, and peacebuilding remain central themes of ASEP's programming. ASEP works closely with other entities dealing in security and the rule of law, such as the local clan elders, religious leaders, and militias, to identify community goals and priorities.

ASEP seeks to promote dialogues and grassroots opinions in the formation of administrative structures and bridge the gap between civilians and administration. ASEP supports Media Centers that spread and inform the surrounding communities that peace is necessary for the development and the great good of Somalia. The aim of this is to have a platform where local voices can be heard, and oral culture can be preserved through the transmission of songs and other verbal messages.

Emergency

ASEP recognizes that the recurrent humanitarian crises, which lead to the collapse of social, political, and economic systems, is the major cause of food insecurity for households. With conflict comes the disruption of agricultural production, decreased employment opportunities, and looting and destruction of livelihood assets. In a bid to save lives and curb malnutrition, ASEP supports the food security and livelihoods of

affected communities and vulnerable households, displaced persons, and refugees to become self-sufficient by distributing food and non-food items –NFIs and engaging the communities in cash-based programs. ASEP emergency response also includes emergency WASH services to avert droughts' effect by providing lifesaving safe water access, temporary latrines, handwashing facilities, and sanitation campaigns. ASEP also ensures improved awareness and mitigating the spread of disease outbreaks alongside its existing hygiene promotion work.

DRR and Resilience

Poverty and disasters reinforce one another: the poor are more vulnerable to disasters, and disasters also cause higher poverty rates for families and communities. ASEP acknowledges this relationship and understands that development and humanitarian programs must tackle disasters' risks to protect vulnerable communities before and after disasters and break this cycle.

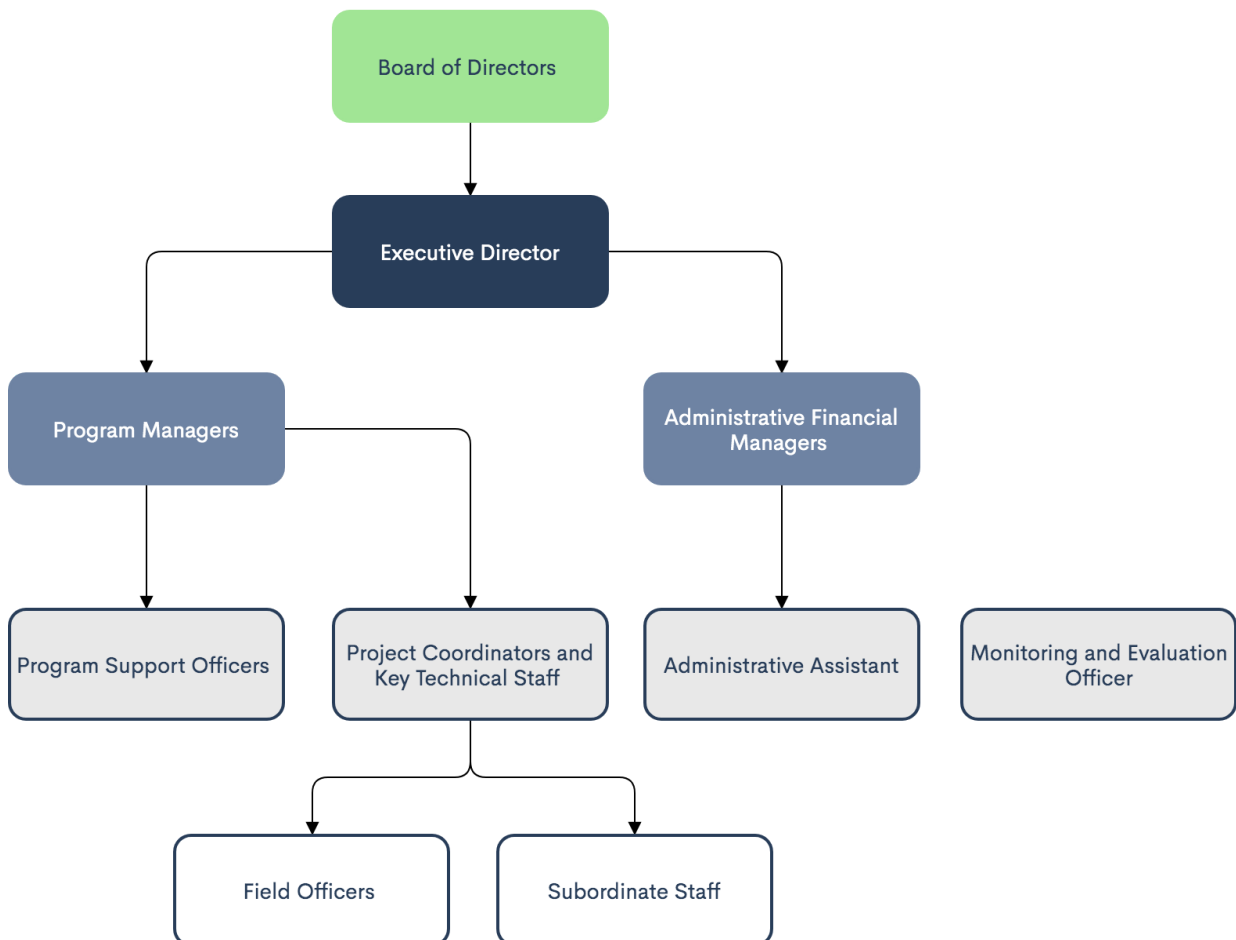
Our disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) covers all practices that help communities prevent or mitigate disaster hazards, reduce vulnerabilities, and improve capacities to cope with disasters' impacts. ASEP sees DRR as a strategy incorporating humanitarian and development interventions. This allows us to design or adapt our activities to make people and communities safer and more resilient to disasters, and to safeguard efforts to create and expand sustainable poverty alleviation and development programs. Under our Resilience Gedo project, we are coaching and mentoring 11 target communities to establish Village Disaster Risk Reduction (VDMC) Committees, and develop and disseminate Community Managed Disaster Risk Reduction (CMDRR) plans.

Our Organization

Structure

As an implementer of several projects in Somalia, our management structure, reporting, and supervision systems are well adapted to successfully manage and implement development and humanitarian projects. ASEP recognizes the importance of a lean, active and efficient organizational structure and culture and follows policies and mechanisms that ensure an organized structure with clear lines of authority, responsibility and regular review of organizational development interventions.

Chart 1: ASEP Organizational Chart



Offices

ASEP headquarter office is located in Belet Hawa, Gedo, Somalia, and provides closer technical and administrative support to projects and programs that ASEP implements. ASEP also has one liaison office in Nairobi, Kenya and other field office in Garbaharey and South Bardeere.

Team

ASEP brings 25 years of experience in humanitarian and development work. Our five-member Board of Directors is drawn from a broad spectrum of community stakeholders. The members meet every quarter as required in our by-laws to set policies and provide overall guidance. Our Management team consisting of the Executive Director, Admin, Finance Manager, and Sector Program Managers, lead and coordinate a lean dynamic and collaborative team engaging in daily operations to realize the vision, mission, and the goals of the organization. Our field staff undertakes a daily project routine to manage and supervise activities while a monitoring team tracks progress to ensure timely and quality implementation of activities. Our staff and management teams have received training on governance, effective leadership and supervision, and financial management, which enhanced our management capabilities.

Management Systems

Our finance system ensures proper budgeting and exclusive use of project finances. In ASEP, project funds are fully utilized and well managed. To properly carry out its financial responsibilities, ASEP develops and operates within an annual plan/budget linked to the organization's strategic plan and partnership activities. Accountability and transparency are observed in all aspects of finance and administration. Our organization undertakes an annual statutory audit.

ASEP has a procurement policy that ensures a transparent and accountable procurement system to avoid fraud and theft, establishing a sound system of works, materials, and services acquisition and control. All procurement processes are realized in compliance with a set procedure that meets our partners' and donors' requirements.

Our Human Resource system and policy guide staff and cover all aspects of human resource management, from recruitment and selection to contracting performance appraisals, and training to contract-termination. ASEP endeavors to ensure recruitment, induction, development, and retention of adequate levels of qualified staff. The organization promotes sound staff recruitment practices, procedures, processes, and structures. ASEP operates under neutrality and impartiality, and its employees are requested to perform their professional duties in the same spirit and to understand

and respect the organization's mission. Our staff is exposed to numerous training and platforms to build their technical expertise.

ASEP maintains a strong culture of monitoring and evaluation and views Monitoring processes and evaluations as important tools for helping the organization to learn from its past experience and better understand what types of interventions, policies, and activities work well, and not so well, and in what contexts. The organization conducts evaluations that serve as course-corrective decision-making through evidential data collection, reflection and analysis, and impartial judgment. ASEP ensures accountability to donors and other stakeholders by meeting their requirements for MEAL and sharing successes, challenges, and lessons learned through the timely delivery of reports and other means of communication. ASEP utilizes an approach to accountability that emphasizes listening to and understanding the beneficiaries' needs and reflects those needs in the project's decision-making processes and activities. Tools and procedures for accountability are staff orientation to accountability, complaint handling, and feedback mechanisms.

Partners

ASEP has established and maintained long-lasting partnerships with a wide range of stakeholders. Our partners include development agencies and donors, federal, provincial district and village counterparts and community change agents, beneficiaries, and partners from the private sector and donors. ASEP has a high level of institutional collaboration and linkages. It is a member of various local and national networks. It maintains cordial working relationships and partnerships with humanitarian actors operating in the region, many of whom use its offices for cluster and other meetings. Over the years, ASEP has worked with INGOs and LNGOs such as arche noVa, Norwegian Church Aid (NCA), Polish Humanitarian Action (PAH), CERID, IIRR, ASDF; and donors such as the German Federal Government (GFFO), CHF, TIS-USAID, IOM, OCHA, UNICEF, and others.



Selected Projects

Over the twenty-plus years period of its existence, ASEP has implemented xx projects partnering with various organizations and accessing funding from different donors. Below is a brief summary of a few selected ASEP implemented projects.

Project: Resilience Gedo Project (REP-Gedo)

Donor: arche noVa

Period: Ongoing

REP-Gedo is a Transitional Aid Project. It aims to improve the resilience of vulnerable communities and households in the Gedo Region to the cyclical shocks of conflict and natural disasters. REP-Gedo brings together two partners Action for Social and Economic Progress (ASEP) and arche noVa. REP-Gedo is supported by the German Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ). The main outcome of the project is to ensure riverine and pastoral communities, as well as IDPs living in settlements and their host communities are better placed to resist and recover from minor shocks and stress by strengthening their resilience strategies and response plans, increasing their access to clean water and diversifying their livelihood capacities."

Project: CONSORTIUM FOR WASH ASSISTANCE IN SOUTH CENTRAL SOMALIA (WAPA)

Donor: German Federal Foreign Office (GFFO)

Period: 2018 - 2020

WAPA is a consortium for WASH assistance in South Central Somalia, bringing together three humanitarian organizations: Action for Social and Economic Progress (ASEP), arche noVa, and Polish Humanitarian Action (PAH). The first phase of the project ended in March 2020. The project was implemented in 2 States: Jubbaland and Galmudug; 3 Regions: Gedo, Lower Jubba, Galgaduud, and 5 Districts: Belet Hawa, South Bardere, Kismayo, Aadado, Dhusamareeb. The project targeted the most vulnerable groups, such as newly displaced persons and existing IDPS; host communities, remote pastoralist villages; and school students and teachers. The project has reached 52,625 HHs or 368,375 people, of whom 65 percent are women.

Project: Sustainable Horticultural and Agricultural value chain development for Recovery and Economic Progress Project (SHARP)

Donor: Norwegian Church Aid (NCA)

Period: 2018

The Overall Goal of the SHARP Project is to economically empower right holders through engaging in selected agriculture and horticulture value chain development initiatives in Belet- Xaawa, Doolow and Luuq districts of Gedo region. The project is funded by Norwegian Church Aid (NCA) and was implemented in partnership with CERID. The project has reached directly and indirectly, over 61,516.

Project: Telethon Campaign Project

Donor: Norwegian Church Aid (NCA) :

Period: 2017 - 2018

The Telethon Campaign Project ran in Belet Xaawa District in Gedo Somalia. Through its operations, the project aimed at improving the thematic areas of WASH. ASEP via this project improved the status of existing wash facilities, established new facilities, and built the community's capacities for the sustained use of the community-owned WASH facilities. The action targeted four villages and 2 IDP settlements within the district of Belet Xaawa, Gedo region Somalia. The project reached 7, 020 persons (approximately 1,170 HHs).

Project: WASH AND LIVELIHOOD IMPROVEMENT IN BELET-XAAWA (WALIB-GEDO)

Donor: German Federal Foreign Office (GFFO)

Period: 2016 - 2018

WASH and Livelihood improvement in the Gedo Region project (WALIB-Gedo) is a 2-year project funded by the German Federal Foreign Office (GFFO). ASEP implemented the project in the districts of Belet Hawa and South Bardeere in the Gedo Region, Somalia. For the first 15 months, the project's activities were realized in 3 IDPs settlements and their host communities in Belet Hawa town. During that phase, the number of IDPs increased dramatically, either for settlements or in transit to the Ethiopian and Kenyan refugee camps, because of the drought. For this reason, in May 2017 WALIB-Gedo project was scaled up, increasing the WASH services to guarantee the survival of the new IDPs in town and providing other WASH infrastructures in 3 pastoralist villages located nearby, and in 5 remote villages in South Bardeere. Overall the project reached 2580 direct beneficiaries and 970 indirect beneficiaries in Belet Hawa and South Bardeere districts.

Project: Gedo Recovery Project

Donor: Norwegian Church Aid (NCA)

Period: 2015

The Gedo Recovery Project project aimed to provide safety needs to identified communities of Belet Xaawo and Doolow Districts. The project offered emergency and recovery interventions to target beneficiaries in locations in identified locations in Belet-Xaawo and Doolow Districts of Gedo through the Provision of Standard Hygiene

kits, the provision of Shoats, the provision of Business Start-up Grants, and the provision of Farm Inputs and Rehabilitation of Irrigation Canals.

Project: Constructive Civic Dialogue for Broad-based, Accountable and Responsive Local Governance Systems and Reconciliation in Gedo Region of Somalia

Donor: DAI-TIS

Period: 2014

ASEP and a number of local NGOs in Gedo Region have engaged in this project that seeks to “Promote Civic Dialogue in Doolow, Luuq and Belet-Xaawo. With the promotion of mini dialogues and grassroots opinions in the formation of administration structures in the region, the beneficiaries of the project did not only benefit from the platform being presented to air their opinions, it also went a long way in bridging the gap between civilians and administration. Further, ASEP provided support to Maandeeq Media Center, a community driven radio station that seeks to spread and inform the surrounding communities that peace is necessary for development and the great good of Somalia. The core of community radio is to have a platform where local voices can be heard and oral culture can be preserved through the transmission of song and other verbal messages.

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