Transforming Lives in Kalluun-Dacar Village – A Somali Success Story of Barwaaqo Project

Country:	Somalia
Region:	Galmudug State
Project:	Somalia Water for Rural Resilience Project (Barwaaqo)
Sector:	Water, Livestock, Community Development
Beneficiaries:	Residents of Kallin-Dacar Village
Period:	Augut 2024

Success Story: Transforming Kalluun-Dacar with Sustainable Water Solutions

The Newly constructed Haffir dam in Kalluun-Dacar village in June 2024 (Photo Credit/Galmudug PIU).

Kalluun-Dacar, is a remote village located 20 kilometers from the north west of Dhusamareeb, the capital of Galmudug State in Somalia, which has long struggled with limited access to clean water. With Approximately 500 households relying on livestock herding and small-scale farming, and the lack of a sustainable water supply had significantly constrained economic growth, and imposed a constant burden on the community. Prior to the intervention, the residents had to transport water from a distant sources at an exorbitant cost, with each truckload exceeding $100. This created immense financial pressure, limiting opportunities for families to invest in essential needs such as healthcare and education.

The land which the water catchment would be constructed in Kalluun-Dacar Village. (Photo Credit/ Galmudug PIU).

For Mr. Mohamed Mohamud Adan, a livestock herder who has lived in Kalluun-Dacar for 15 years, this was a daily struggle. "We used to rely on water brought from 20 kilometers away," Mohamed recalls. "The water was expensive with each truckload exceeding $100, and sometimes it is not clean enough for our livestock animals, let alone for us to drink." While livestock are resilient to water quality issues, the high cost and inconsistency left those living in the village vulnerable, with serious concerns about health and hygiene.

A Lifeline Arrives

The turning point for Kalluun-Dacar came when the Somalia Water for Rural Resilience Project (Barwaaqo), in partnership with the Galmudug State Ministry of Energy and Water Resources. The project introduced a Haffir dam - a large reservoir designed to capture and store rainwater, providing sustainable and clean water supply all year-round. The water quality in the village is exceptional, free from turbidity or contaminants, ensuring that both livestock and the community can safely rely on it for their daily needs.


Community engagement meeting in Kalluun-Dacar with PIU. Photo Credit/ Omar Abdisalan.

While traditional pans and plastic linings have long been utilized in the water harvesting, the multi-use water system introduced through this project is relatively new to Somalia. It supports water storage for livestock, while also facilitating domestic and agricultural uses, and diversifying the water's applications and maximizing resource efficiency with a single infrastructure.

The Barwaaqo project didn't stop at building the reservoir. The project team actively engaged with the local community, ensuring the infrastructure was designed to meet their specific needs – a collaborative approach that shaped and helped the future of the Kalluun-Dacar village.

During the handover ceremony, Galmudug's Minister of Energy and Water Resources, Mr. Abdulkadir Shire Galbeyte, shared his excitement: "Kalluun-Dacar is the first of five dams under the Barwaaqo project to be completed in Galmudug. We hope the community will make the best use of it while safeguarding its cleanliness."

The community representatives, PIU and the Ministry of Energy and Water Resources. Photo Credit/ Galmudug PIU.

Water, Hope, and Growth

The completion of the Haffir dam has revolutionized life in Kalluun-Dacar. For the first time, the village has a reliable, locally sourced water supply that meets the needs of both the people and their livestock throughout the dry season. The water quality has been tested to meet World Health Organization (WHO) standards for potable water, confirming its safety for domestic consumption.

The infrastructure includes a submersible pump with a capacity of 17 m^3/hour, a UV system to eliminate microbiological contaminants, and a 23 m^3 tank for water storage. The water is then distributed to animal troughs and water kiosks, ensuring accessibility for all. Powered by Solar energy, thereby making the system very cost-effective and environmentally friendly.

For Mr. Mohamed and many others living in the village, the impact was immediate. "Now, we have clean, harvested rainwater that will last until the next rainy season," Mr. Mohamed said with a very happy smile. "Both humans and animals benefit from it." The introduction of drip irrigation, which delivers 16 m^3 of water per day directly to plant roots, has also enabled local farmers to irrigate their crops sustainably, improving yields and food security.

Animals drink water from newly constructed Haffir dum in Kalluun-Dacar Village. Photo Credit/Omar Abdisalan.

A newly completed harvest water point at the Haffir dam, Kalluun-Dacar village. (Credit: Omar Abdisalan).

A newly irrigated agricultural field in Kalluun-Dacar village, benefiting from the recently completed rainwater harvesting system. Photo Credit/Galmudug PIU

Economic Benefits and Community

The economic benefits of the Barwaaqo project are profound. By providing free water, all families in Kalluun-Dacar village are now saving money previously spent on water trucking, allowing them to invest in healthcare, education, and other household necessities. The project's cash-for-work program employed 30-40 community members during the construction phase, providing much-needed financial relief. Women in the community have also benefited, with seven women establishing tea shops and restaurants near the water point to cater to workers and visitors.

The dam has sparked a sense of pride and ownership among the villagers. A community committee was established to manage the water point and to ensure its maintenance. As a result, the village has grown significantly, with new households settling in Kalluun-Dacar due to the improved living conditions. The Ministry of Education, with support from the project, has also helped establish a school near the water point.

Abdulkadir Warsame Shidane, Kalluun-Dacar Community leader. Photo credit/ Omar Abdisalan.

A Community United and Transformed

The Haffir dam has not only provided water but also united the community. Villagers actively manage the water point, overseeing its operation and maintenance to ensure the infrastructure remains functional. The auxiliary infrastructure includes water tanks, animal troughs, and water kiosks, all powered by solar energy and, equipped with UV treatment systems. The community has been trained to manage the infrastructure in order to ensure its long-term sustainability.

Deputy community leader Mr. Ahmed Hussein Ahmed highlights the importance of the project: "We are extremely grateful for the Barwaaqo Project. We used to struggle to fetch water from distant places. But now we have access to free, solar-powered water right here."

For mothers like Mrs. Halwo Shire, the haffir dam has brought immense relief. "We now have water close to home, and life has become much easier," she says. "The Barwaaqo Project has transformed our village."

Halwo Shire, Kalluun-Dacar Community memebr benefited from Haffir dum. Photo Credit/Omar Abdisalan.

Deputy community leader of Kalluun-Dacar, Ahmed Hussein Ahmed, pictured during community engagement. Photo/Omar Abdisalan

A woman hangs freshly washed clothes using water from the newly harvested rainwater point in Kalluun-Dacar village. Photo/Omar Abdisalan

A Model for the Future

The success of the Somalia Water for Rural Resilience Project (Barwaaqo) in Kalluun-Dacar village stands as a powerful example of how sustainable solutions can transform communities. By addressing the fundamental and basic human rights need such as water, this project has improved the quality of life, empowered the community, and stimulated economic growth. It demonstrates how collaboration, innovation, and community engagement can create sustainable long-term changes.

Kalluun-Dacar's story offers hope to other rural communities across Somalia and beyond, proving that with effective planning and modest investment, small-scale water development can serve as a catalyst for social resilience and long-term prosperity.

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