

Somali Interactive Radio Instruction Program



"Before these learning centers were established, our children used to play on the streets without doing anything. But now, thanks to Allah and to the donor, our children are benefiting from the free education. They are busy with their studies all day."

— Hassan Isse Dubad,
community leader in
Hargeisa

Background

The Somali Interactive Radio Instruction Program (SIRIP) advances stabilization in Somalia by delivering education in a precarious situation and by giving children the capabilities they will need to actively participate in society.

SIRIP, funded by the United States Agency for International Development and implemented by Education Development Center, provides high quality interactive audio programs to Somali children attending formal, non-governmental, and Quranic schools, as well as non-formal community learning centers.

With the assistance of audio programs, teachers lead classes and are trained in using interactive teaching methods including stories, activities, and educational songs. Supplemental materials accompany the programs, providing schools with the resources to support sound, primary-level instruction.

Impact

SIRIP provides quality education to Somali children on a large scale.

- SIRIP has reached 330,000 in-school and out-of-school learners in South Central Zone, Puntland, and Somaliland.
- The program currently reaches 40,000 out-of-school learners, providing them with their only access to education.
- SIRIP has trained 9,471 teachers on universal teaching competencies, which are reinforced by the Interactive Radio Instruction programs.

SIRIP participants learn more than their peers as a result of taking part in the program.

- Grade 1 SIRIP learners scored 15% higher than non-SIRIP learners in Somali literacy and 20% higher in math.
- Older SIRIP learners, many returning to school after disruptions, showed learning gains of 21% as compared to 8% for other older students.
- In addition to basic reading and math in Somali, the programs teach life skills such as health, conflict prevention and mediation.

SIRIP has mobilized communities to plan, start, manage and maintain community learning centers, in some cases building brand new schools. 245 communities opened new educational centers or schools in 2009 alone.



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SIRIP's interactive radio programs actively engage students in learning.

Our Story

En route to a Community Education Center training workshop in Puntland, SIRIP staff members noticed numerous little girls carrying their infant siblings and begging or working in the streets. Local colleagues explained that the sight was not unusual and that the parents of some of the girls would likely attend the workshop. SIRIP took action. The SIRIP trainers and their partners urged the parents to think about their and their children's financial situations in the longer term: though the meager wages may help now, the children's absence from school will cost them later.

The message reached its target audience. "I did not see it that way," replied one parent. "What parent wants their children to live their entire life in poverty? From this day on, I will send my children, so they can take advantage of this free education."

Indeed, the children now attend one of SIRIP's many learning centers. The change has not been easy—girls arrive carrying their infant siblings. However, with the quality learning supported by SIRIP, those girls and their classmates are working for a big future rather than for small change.



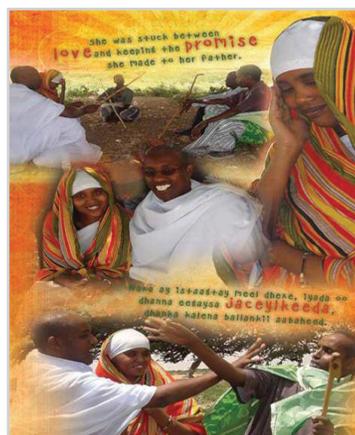
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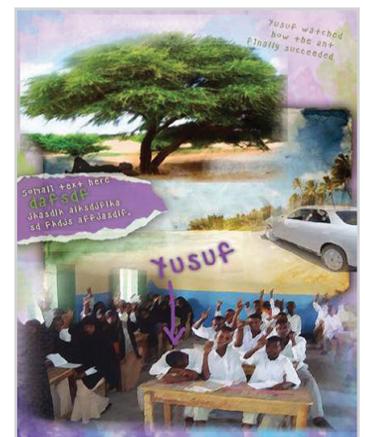
Impact

SIRIP creates and distributes learning materials specifically for Somalis where few existed before.

- SIRIP has developed and aired 940 Interactive Radio Instruction episodes for grades 1- 5 in Somali and Math.
- The program will soon produce and distribute the 20th title in the Somali Readers Series. Somali authors and students helped SIRIP create these bilingual books for early learners through youth.
- SIRIP has distributed nearly 100,000 learning materials including Lifeline radios, MP3 players, teachers' guides, and books.



Marriage and Selection



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