

Ministry of Water Resources (MoWR) in Somaliland has launched Water Resources Management & Investment Project (WRMIP).

On February 21st, 2017, MoWR launched the Water Resources Management & Investment Project through the African Water Facility, which is commissioned to execute the project.

Somaliland is located in the Horn of Africa with a population of 3.5 million and has climatic characteristics of hot summers, relatively cold winters and bimodal rainfall with two wet seasons locally known as *Gu* (April to June) and the *Deyr* (September to November).

Currently, Somaliland is experiencing two regional droughts that have severe impact on pastoral, and agro pastoral communities. The Somaliland's economy relies on livestock and its products directly or indirectly account for more than 65% of the Gross Domestic Products (GDP).

The country experiences droughts and their occurrences are becoming more frequent, a phenomenon attributable to climate change as a result of global warming. Droughts have negative effects on Somali pastoral communities.

Historically, severe droughts have occurred in Somalia since 1964, 1969, 1974, 1987, 1988, 2000, 20001, 2004, 2008, 2011 & 2016. (FAO/SWALIM website). For example, in Togdheer region, there were 7 droughts in the last 35 years, 6 of them were experienced in the last 15 years (Inter-agency assessment report, 2016).

Due to El Nino, the pattern of climate change has resulted in two consecutive years of *below* average rainfall in Somaliland. MoWR and its partner, Somalia Water & Land Information Management (SWALIM), have predicted the country will experience near or below normal *Gu* & *Deyr* rainfall. The prediction has pushed many pastoral and agro-pastoral communities into the category of needing urgent humanitarian assistance, especially Water & Pasture.

The African Water Facility through the **African Development Bank's** (AfDB) grant of Euro 3.0 million for the Government of Somaliland (GoSL), is seeking to enhance the water stress situation and plan the long term water resources development plan. The consulting firms **NIRAS** and **We Consult** are commissioned to undertake the technical studies and come up with bankable investment projects. Furthermore, the MoWR has appointed CARE International to be implementing partner for the **Water Infrastructure Development** (WID) program. Both programs WID & WRMIP are designed to assist the GoSL in terms of mitigating the natural disasters in drought prone regions. The

hope is that both programs will complement each other and add to the National Development Plan II of Somaliland. The WID program is specifically designed to support in particular, the *Hawd & Sool Plateau* regions. Both projects will address the drought mitigation aspect and will assist the MoWR in reaching Sustainable Developments Goals (SDGs) of 2030, which coincides with the *Somaliland Vision* of 2030. Recently, AfDB has committed to invest in Somaliland nearly \$25 million in total in the next three years. This is the first time AfDB has identified investment priorities & opportunities in Somaliland due to its stability and economic growth. Below is the breakdown of the investment:

Euro 3.0 African Water Facility

\$US 7.0 CARE International

\$US 14 through Regional Organization of IGAD

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