

MAKO'S STORY

REPLACING DESPAIR WITH HOPE

Mako Ibrahim, a 55-year-old widow and mother of ten, faced immense hardships due to a prolonged drought that led to the loss of her husband, belongings, and livestock. With three disabled children and others to care for, she has been living in IDP camps for years now, working odd jobs to support her family. Recently, her health worsened due to diabetes and kidney issues, adding to her struggles.

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Mako's story is not just one of personal struggle but a testament to the resilience of the human spirit against the unyielding forces of nature and circumstance.

The desolation of losing her husband and all her possessions to the unforgiving clutches of consecutive droughts had forced Mako into the confines of an IDP camp in the Beletweyne District. With no reprieve in sight, she took on menial jobs, washing clothes to eke out a meager existence for her family. But fate wasn't done testing her courage. Health woes crept in, with diabetes and kidney issues casting a dark shadow over her already precarious conditions.

For the last four years, the Midnimo IDP camp in Beletweyne District became Mako's reluctant sanctuary, where she pieced together a meager existence through sporadic labor, trading her sweat for insufficient sustenance.

The recent barrage of El Niño's heavy rains and floods further plunged Mako's family into despair, rendering their bush shelter inadequate against the ferocious torrents that displaced over 90% of Beledweyne's populace, including Mako's family. With her meager supplies washed away once more, Mako found herself facing a familiar abyss of despair.



Mako Ibrahim, 55, Midnimo Camp, Beledweyne, Hiran region, Somalia



AADSOM Project implementation team

"It felt like the world was conspiring against us," Mako recalled, her voice tinged with resignation. "We fled to the outskirts, but there was no escape from the devastation. My children fell ill, and hunger gnawed at our insides."

In response to the flooding in Beletweyne district, Action Against Disasters Somalia (AADSOM), in collaboration with the Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe, swiftly initiated a comprehensive food security and shelter intervention for the affected households in Beletweyne. This initiative extended unconditional food vouchers to 467 households, encompassing approximately 2,802 individuals, over a span of two months.

Selected as one of the fortunate few, Mako received the valuable lifeline she so desperately needed – a two months' worth of food vouchers and a shelter tarpaulin. With this assistance, she could breathe a sigh of relief, if only for a moment. The burden of putting food on the table lifted, her children's hungry cries silenced, Mako found solace in the embrace of assistance, a blaze of light in her darkest hours.

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"I am humbly grateful," she murmured, her voice a melody of gratitude and relief.

No longer did the specter of hunger loom over her family.

With stability restored, dignity reclaimed, Mako could dare for hope once more. Ramadan, once an indication of hardship, now held with a promise, a testament to the resilience of her spirit in the face of adversity.

In closing, she expressed gratitude for the support, noting the positive impact on their lives. With this aid, Mako's family regained stability and dignity, alleviating the constant fear of hunger, especially during Ramadan.

