

Content

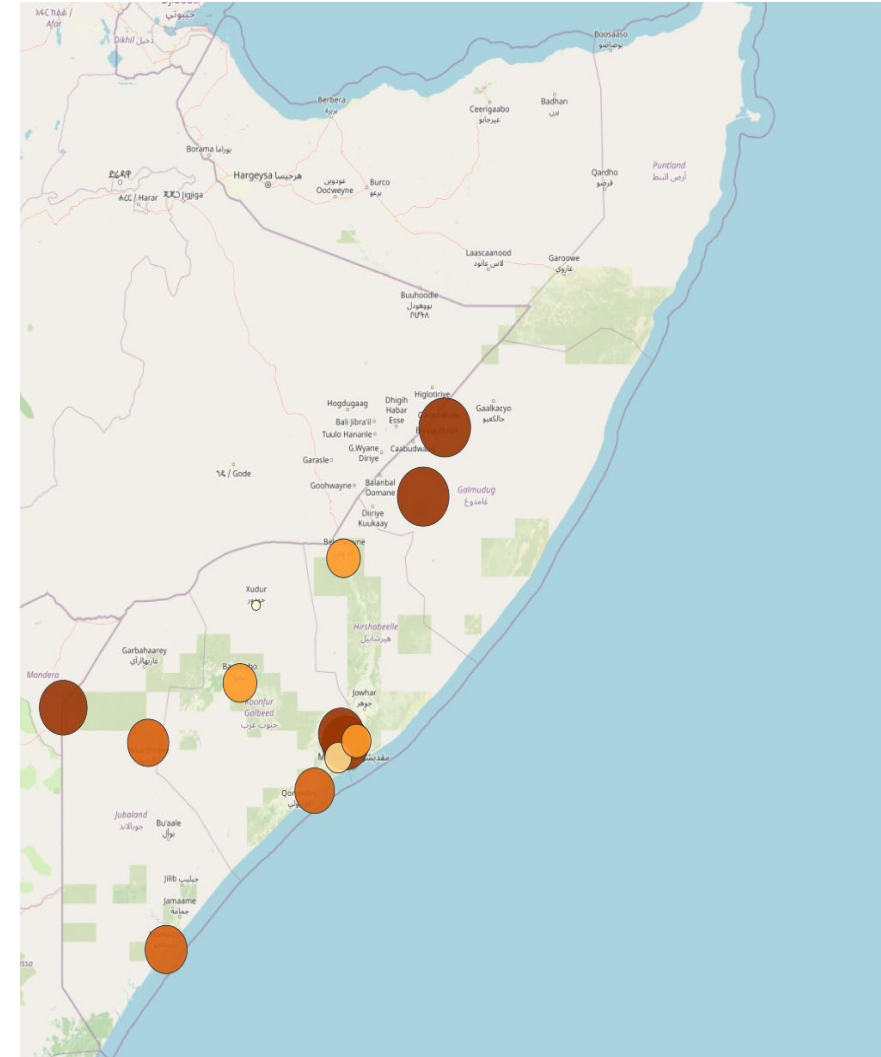
- Context/ background of Somalia
- Engaging the Community
- ALMANACH sensitization and dissemination
- Bishara's Story
- Community and user feedback
- Lessons learned



Context/ Background of Somalia

- Protracted conflict, recurrent episodes of violence
- Climatic shocks undermine coping strategies
- Under-five mortality ratio in Somalia is amongst the highest in the world: 112 deaths/1,000 live births*
- Ministry of Health (MoH) lacks resources, health system is fragmented without unified governance mechanisms
- Traditional healers are an important part of Somalia's health system and are often preferred over medical practitioners
- Somalia is a country of story telling

* data.unicef.org/country/som/



Engaging the Community: Community health committees (CHC) and Female committees

- Initial Focus Group discussion with community members prior program implementation
- Agreements to focus CHC routine sensitization activities on ALMANACH initially
- Establishing a trustworthy and enabling environment for mutual information sharing
- Routine monthly meetings with committees to discuss actions/ problems and feedback also on ALMANACH
- Sharing of testimonies by female community health workers to foster discussions by the community members
- Monthly ALMANACH bulletin covering progress, results and next steps shared with community members incl a contact person for questions and comments
- Community Call Center: open to anybody for programme feedback





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ALMANACH Sensitization and Dissemination

- Flip charts 'Bishara's Story'
- Weekly sensitization schedule per health facility
- Community volunteers conduct house-to-house visits to disseminate ALMANACH messages using Bishara's stories.
- Health promoters provide sessions at the triage areas as beneficiaries wait to receive services.
- Exit interviews asking about knowledge and acceptance of ALMANACH
- Health workers provide explanations on and gain consent for use of ALMANACH from care takers
- Regular exchange with health workers to check community acceptance level of ALMANACH



Bishara's Story



ALMANACH POSTER



If antibiotic treatment is necessary, the health care provider will prescribe treatment, but does not happen all the time.



Mother takes sick child to the clinic



Consultant starts to examine the child



Consultant uses ALMANACH to ensure proper examination, diagnosis and treatment

Community and User Feedback

“Beneficiaries have learnt the danger signs and severe complication of children. At triage we prioritize children with severe conditions and beneficiaries have accepted those children who require urgent attention to be prioritized”
Health promoter

“I knew little about the importance of breastfeeding. When I came to SRCS Clinic, the nurse encouraged me to read from ALMANACH tablet at the end of the consultation where a counselling session is given, so now I read directly from the tablet and understood the messages”
Saidia from Balcad

“For a long time I have been taking my child to a traditional healer whenever he is sick, and he applied concoctions on his chest which never helped my child. Since ALMANACH started, my child improved with the medications prescribed by the health worker”
Jamila from Beletwein

“ALMANACH provided a local solution to the most common conditions: lemon, honey and tea were available ever since I was young but we did not know their effectiveness. With minor coughs we noted that Antibiotics are not needed and we are teaching our communities the use of local remedies”
CHC member

“Children are taking good time with the U5 nurse as he does better consultations with ALMANACH, I have personally seen improvement in the quality care during my last supervision”
Suad, Health officer



Lessons Learned

- Ongoing awareness raising of ALMANACH is necessary
- Commitment of local staff, community members and beneficiaries needed
- Contextualised awareness materials on ALMANACH crucial to start exchange
- Involve care takers also by reading and looking at ALMANACH recomms themselves
- Community Health Committee participation in the referral system
- Success drives the acceptance:
 - huge reduction of unreasonable antibiotic treatments
 - increase in counselling and application of preventive medicine
- Exchange with and among health workers to gather experiences, thoughts and views about ALMANACH- it fosters full adherence of ALMANACH
- Close coordination between implementing partners and existing SoPs for program implementations crucial, esp for scale up





Community volunteer in Balcad



SRCS Clinic Afgoi

Thank you very much for your attention,
any questions?



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