



arche noVa  
Initiative for Peoples in Need



## ECT WASH — Lessons Learned

### Strengthening Local Climate-sensitive and Universal WASH Capacities Using and Disseminating the Green Humanitarian Aid Approach

Country  
SOMALIA

Organisation  
ACTION FOR SOCIAL &  
ECONOMIC PROGRESS (ASEP)

Duration  
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## BACKGROUND

The project is being implemented in the following countries and regions: Africa (Somalia - Jubbaland and Galmudug states, including Gedo, Mudug, and Galgadud regions; Niger; Ethiopia; Mali); Asia (Myanmar, Philippines, Indonesia, Bangladesh); Middle East (Iraq, Lebanon); Latin America (Nicaragua, Honduras, Guatemala, Haiti).

The ECT WASH aims to provide vital WASH services through a Green Humanitarian Aid approach, focusing on environmentally sustainable practices. Key activities include emergency water provision, rehabilitation of water facilities, hygiene promotion, and capacity-building for local water user committees. The project also emphasizes integrating climate resilience into WASH infrastructure and practices, ensuring that interventions are tailored to the local context and community needs.

The project is implemented by arche nova and Action for Social and Economic Progress (ASEP) in Somalia, particularly to implement the green humanitarian aid approach in the project. The NEAT+ has been used to assess environmental risks in Gedo and Banadir through a workshop with relevant humanitarian actors.

The NEAT+ trainings involved structured workshops designed to equip humanitarian workers with skills for assessing and mitigating environmental impacts related to their projects. The sessions included hands-on exercises and case studies to facilitate real-world application of the tool.

Key activities included comprehensive training sessions focusing on practical uses of NEAT+, which enhanced participants' understanding and implementation of environmental assessments in humanitarian contexts. These workshops featured interactive components, collaborative group work for brainstorming sustainable practices, and a feedback mechanism for participants to share experiences and suggestions for improvement.

The trainings aimed to enhance environmental accountability in humanitarian actions, raise awareness of environmental risks, and promote sustainable approaches aligned with Green Humanitarian Aid principles. By training local actors, it sought to empower communities to incorporate environmental considerations into their operational frameworks effectively.

ASEP led the initiative, collaborating with local government ministries and civil society organizations to ensure the training was relevant to local contexts. Key approaches integrated into the NEAT+ training included environmental mainstreaming, climate change adaptation strategies, disaster risk reduction, and nature-based solutions. Preparedness and anticipatory action strategies were also emphasized, addressing proactive measures to mitigate environmental impacts.

## KEY LESSONS LEARNED

### Challenges:

Travel restrictions arising from political disputes between the federal government and the Jubaland administration hindered plans to deploy key staff to some of the targeted activity areas, namely Luq and Dolow. However, this was mitigated by conducting online trainings and other support for staff that were already in those areas so they could deliver the trainings on their own.

### Successes:

The successful implementation of the NEAT+ training and the Green Humanitarian Aid approach was driven by thorough preparation and capacity-building efforts. ASEP conducted a needs assessment before the training to ensure the content was relevant to local challenges. The training provided participants with practical skills to assess and mitigate environmental risks in humanitarian projects. By incorporating real-world case studies and interactive exercises, participants gained hands-on experience in applying environmental sustainability principles to their work.

Funded by:



Community engagement played a crucial role in the effectiveness of the intervention. By involving local actors, including government representatives, civil society organizations, and community members, ASEP ensured that the training addressed the specific environmental and WASH-related challenges faced by different regions. This participatory approach fostered local ownership and made it easier to implement sustainable solutions tailored to community needs.

Another key factor contributing to the success of the activity was the exchange of knowledge and collaboration among humanitarian actors. The training provided a platform where participants could share experiences, best practices, and innovative approaches to integrating environmental sustainability in WASH interventions. Group discussions and scenario-based exercises encouraged interactive learning, helping participants develop actionable strategies for their respective organizations.

The training also triggered positive changes within ASEP and its partner organizations. Many participants reported a shift in their approach to project planning, ensuring environmental considerations were integrated from the beginning.

The long-term impact of the training is evident in the commitment of organizations to incorporate NEAT+ into their project workflows. By building local capacity, ASEP has empowered humanitarian professionals and community members to integrate sustainability into their work. The training also reinforced the importance of environmental accountability, ensuring that future WASH projects align with climate resilience and green humanitarian aid principles.



Omar, from New Ways, emphasized that the training was "well-designed and structured." He reflected on the importance of starting every project with a clear environmental assessment and connecting it to a logical framework. He said, **"This approach ensures we create sustainable projects that protect the environment while meeting community needs."** He also noted that the training strengthened his understanding of how to integrate environmental considerations into every phase of project planning.



## RECOMMENDATIONS

- **Build Local Capacity:** Train humanitarian professionals and community members to enhance resilience and environmental accountability.
- **Advocate for Policy Change:** Promote the integration of climate resilience and sustainability into national and regional humanitarian policies.
- **Integrate Environmental Sustainability:** Ensure all humanitarian projects incorporate environmental assessments and mitigation strategies using tools like NEAT+.
- **Increase Accessibility of GHA Resources:** To ensure that the principles of Green Humanitarian Aid are more widely adopted, consider developing easily accessible resources, such as handbooks or online toolkits, tailored to different sectors of humanitarian work.
- **Follow-up Mechanisms:** To ensure that the knowledge gained during the training is applied, ASEP should establish follow-up mechanisms, such as periodic check-ins with participants, to assess progress in integrating GHA and NEAT+ into their projects.
- **Introduce Environmental Advocacy Ambassadors:** Train selected participants to act as advocates within their organizations or communities, spreading knowledge about the Climate Charter and NEAT+ tool. These ambassadors can lead in-house sessions and foster greater buy-in at the organizational level.
- **Incorporate Community Feedback Mechanisms:** Collaborate with NEAT developers to incorporate in the tool a way for collecting and integrating community-level feedback on environmental risks and mitigation measures.