

EAST AFRICA DROUGHT

MOHAMMED'S STORY

"I miss my students. There are some very intelligent children who have left school because they have to collect water."



Mohammed is the headmaster of Hindhint Primary School in Somaliland, east Africa. The current drought has forced many of his pupils to stay at home because they need to look after their animals and help their families find water.

Mohammed is frustrated about children missing school, even though he understands why they can't attend. He wants his village to be full of educated people, and says:

"Education allows children to grow up to help themselves, their families and their country."

Mohammed is making sure that when children finally return to class they catch up on their work. However that means the children will have to stay in the same class for an extra year:

"I feel so bad for the students that stopped their education because of the drought. After the drought, they will return but it will be more difficult for them."



The effects of drought on animals

Many people in Somaliland rely on their animals for food. However, because grass isn't growing and water is often dirty, many animals have become sick or have died.



ActionAid in Somaliland

We help people to build long-lasting wells and water pumps for their communities. Over 150 have been built in the last three years in Somaliland.



The effects of drought on soil

Droughts cause land to dry out so that farmers can't use it to grow food. If you added up all the land around the world that is lost this way every day, it could cover a city the size of Birmingham. (UNCCD)

EAST AFRICA DROUGHT DAEKA'S STORY

"It makes me so happy when it rains. All the buckets are full, the grass grows for the sheep to eat and the trees all turn green."



Daeka is 12 years old and lives in Somaliland, east Africa. Rain is very rare where Daeka lives and droughts regularly strike, meaning water is very scarce. The current drought has already lasted for over two years and will continue at least until later this year. This is causing Daeka many problems:

"The drought has given me a cough. The last time I ate three meals-a-day was five months ago and I only drink half a cup of water a day. Sometimes I feel very hungry and have stomach pains."

Many of Daeka's school friends have stopped their education to help their families search for water. Even though she still goes to school herself, Dakea misses her friends. She looks forward to the end of the drought and remains hopeful of getting her dream job in the future:

"I like school because I get to study my favourite subject, science. I want to be a teacher when I grow up."



The effects of drought on people

Over 240,000 people are affected by this drought in Somaliland alone. It is hard for them to grow food and to find clean water to drink. ActionAid has already provided food to 1,000 families affected by the drought.



What is drought?

A drought is a long period without rain. During a drought, crops can't grow and water is hard to find for humans, plants and animals.



ActionAid in Somaliland

We have trained over 3,000 farmers in Somaliland since 2013. This training teaches people like Ileye (pictured) about looking after their crops. It also teaches them how to manage their water better.