

**WASH and IMPCT Assistance to Households Affected by Drought  
and Displacement in Southern Somali Region  
SUCCESS STORY**

APRIL 5, 2023

**ACTED**  
**Dollo Ado Area Office**



Laila in front of the double-door latrine (with solar light and handwashing facility) at Arra'ad Site, Dollo Ado Woreda, Liben Zone

Laila, 56 years old and mother of 9 children (5 daughters and 4 sons), is currently living in the Arra'ad IDP Site of Dollo Ado Woreda, after having left her original home, called Korofi, in southern Somali Region, in Liben Zone, due the prolonged drought that has severely affected her family's livelihood.

Laila is one of the beneficiaries of the sanitary facilities (double-door latrines with solar lighting and hand-washing facilities) provided by Acted with financial support from IRC (Back donor ECHO) at the Arra'ad IDP Site in the Dolo Ado Woreda.

*"It was very hard and challenging for me and my family to live here"* she said, due to the limited access to the latrines and the lack of knowledge on safe excreta disposal. *"My family and I had no choice but to travel long distances to defecate in the open air, in the bushes or in the stream. For adults, the only time to go was early in the morning or after dark. My children used to do it near or in the creek when they went there to play"*.

The situation represented many risks and worries for IDP families, with the fear of being humiliated as much as the risks mainly for women and girls, who risked sexual assaults or violence by going away at night. The site's poor sanitary conditions and open-air defecation also encouraged disease, especially among children.

*"At night, I used to worry a lot when my children, especially my daughters, and I had to go out to defecate. I was also afraid of being humiliated by others. My children also often fell ill"*, Laila said.

Thanks to the site improvements carried out by Acted with the funding from IRC (ECHO), the life of Laila and her family has changed considerably, especially following the construction of the latrines. Laila feels much safer now, and is reassured for her family, as the toilets are safe and accessible at all times (day and night) and guarantee her privacy, especially as the toilets are separated between men and women. The solar lighting means that she and her daughters can use them even at night, and they can share the toilets with other families without fear. Thanks to the hand-washing facilities, installed

close to the latrines with soap and water available, she is delighted to be able to wash her hands at critical moments, which can only improve their health and life.