



Dear Friends and Colleagues:

Please join us for a luncheon discussion on strengthening local capacity on Friday June 15, 12:00-1:30pm at **Rayburn House Office Building Room B338** featuring:

Degan Ali, Executive Director of Adeso: African Development Solutions
Thomas Briggs, Public Financial Management Risk Assessment Lead, USAID
Moderated by Gregory Adams, Director of Aid Effectiveness, Oxfam America

Lunch will be provided. **Please RSVP to mwhitacre@oxfamamerica.org by Wednesday June 13.**

Decades of providing foreign aid have taught donors that aid is more useful to people living in poverty when it supports their efforts, rather than working around them. USAID is currently pursuing reforms to put local actors in the driver's seat, partnering directly with local governments, businesses, and organizations to lead their own development. But how does this partnership work on the ground? And who are these partners?

Ms. Ali will share her experience as a recipient of U.S. foreign aid about how donors can support local actors as agents of change in their communities. [Adeso](#) was originally founded as the Horn of Africa Relief and Development Organization, and later became known as Horn Relief. For twenty years, Adeso has worked hand-in-hand with African communities to prevent, manage, and overcome environmental, social, or financial situations that adversely affect a community's wellbeing. Mr. Briggs will share his perspective on USAID's efforts to strengthen local capacity while managing risk.

About Adeso

In 1991, Somali American Fatima Jibrell founded Adeso as the Horn of Africa Relief and Development Organization, later known as Horn Relief. In 2002, Jibrell won the international Goldman Environmental Prize in recognition of her leadership in creating a social and environmental movement in Somalia. Adeso is a humanitarian and development organization that is changing the way people think about and deliver aid in Africa. Adeso currently works in three countries: Somalia, Kenya and South Sudan, while the organization's headquarters is in Nairobi, Kenya. The group is recognized as an authority in pastoralist education, and in 2010, they held a Camel Caravan Conference in Nairobi for Somalia education stakeholders. Fatima's daughter, Adeso's Executive Director Degan Ali, is in Washington to celebrate the group's 20th anniversary and their new name, which reflects an expansion outside the Horn of Africa, and the group's emphasis on development rather than simply relief work. Adeso embodies the promise of procurement reform for supporting change agents and building institutions in poor countries to create lasting solutions to poverty.

Sincerely,

The Aid Effectiveness Team

p.s. Please also join Degan and her colleagues in celebrating 20 years of great work as Horn Relief and launching their transition to Adeso on **Thursday, June 14 from 6-8pm** at Bobby Van's Grill, 1201 New York Avenue, NW Washington DC. For more information, contact Caroline Okumu at cokumu@newsignature.com.

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