

# **SOMALIA LIVELIHOODS SUPPORT (SOLIS)**

## **ANNUAL REPORT**

**Year Ending September 30, 2012**

**For**

**THE UNITED STATES AGENCY  
FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

**OFFICE OF FOREIGN DISASTER ASSISTANCE**

**GRANT NO. AID-OFDA-G-10-00040**

**Submitted by:**

**World Concern Development Organization  
19303 Fremont Ave. N.  
Seattle, WA 98133  
206-546-7201**

**December 17, 2012**



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## ANNUAL PROGRAM REPORT

**REPORTING PERIOD:** October 1, 2011– September 30, 2012

### **GENERAL REFERENCE:**

- A. NAME OF PVO:** World Concern Development Organization (WCDO)  
19303 Fremont Ave. N.  
Seattle, WA 98133
- B. HQ/FIELD CONTACT PERSON:** Nick Archer, Senior Director of Disaster Response  
**TELEPHONE:** 804-726-0847  
**FAX:** 206-546-7269  
**EMAIL ADDRESS:** [nicka@worldconcern.org](mailto:nicka@worldconcern.org)
- C. AID AGREEMENT NO:** AID-OFDA-G-10-00040
- D. DATE OF THIS REPORT:** December 17, 2012

**Program Goal:** To save human lives and reduce suffering by strengthening the livelihoods of the drought, flood and conflict-affected population of Somalia.

### PROJECT OVERVIEW AND SUMMARY:

#### INTRODUCTION

This yearly project report covers the period from October 2011 to September 2012. During the period under review, the Somalia Livelihoods Support (SOLIS) project, which had received funding from June 2010, received a cost modification for another year, followed by a no-cost extension until November 30, 2012.

The project focuses on two sectors: Agriculture and Food Security (AFS), and Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH). Objectives and indicators were slightly adjusted from the first phase of the project, but remained the same for the duration of FY 2012, and will be discussed below in a review of progress through the last four quarters.

The first quarter of the year under review fell in a period when most communities hit by the 2011 drought needed all manner of support to recover from the negative effects of the drought experienced then. The socio-economic pillars of the communities weakened by this shock needed to be strengthened in order to initiate recovery. Livestock had been lost, family structures disrupted and many people rendered destitute. In brief, the expected outcomes in AFS were unrealistic, and hardships were compounded by drought, while the WASH activities were highly successful. Looking forward, the recent success in WASH may pave the way to higher returns in AFS and other livelihood diversity outcomes.

#### TARGET

This year, the SOLIS project targeted an estimated 27,250 people (19,000 under WASH sector activities and 8,250 for AFS activities) from Sanaag, Togdheer and Sool regions of Somaliland (Northwestern Somalia).

## **KEY SECTOR-BASED ACHIEVEMENTS IN THE PERIOD UNDER REVIEW**

### **Agriculture and Food Security**

#### **Objective 1: Improve household food supply and livelihoods for target communities**

In the AFS component of the project, 240 households formed 8 farmers groups of 30 members each. These groups received support through training and supply of agricultural implements to start crop farming with an aim of improving household food supply and enriching household food baskets with major food nutrients. The farmers received training on land preparation, design and care of seed beds, transplanting and crop tending, and harvesting, including food preparation techniques. The 8 groups of farmers, 5 of which were IDPs from Burao in Togdheer and the remaining 3 being pastoralists from GarAdag in Sanaag region, planted vegetable crops that included coriander, beetroots, tomatoes, onions, cabbages and carrots.

The target of 8,250 people to be reached was unrealistic under the changing circumstances and could not be achieved. Initial acceptance of agricultural inputs from traditionally pastoralist communities did not manifest over the course of project implementation, and there was a very slow uptake of farming skills among these communities.

Meanwhile, interest among IDP groups was curtailed due to lack of adequate land and adequate water for irrigation in the target region. Drought and borehole breakdown during the period meant the geographic regions where these activities could be viable were quite restrictive. In fact, the farms were originally intended to be 600 m<sup>2</sup>, but the water shortage curtailed these plans, and fewer farmers could be accommodated. This affected the health, growth and eventually the yield from the farms, especially those in Burao.

After the harvest of the first crops ending in March 2012, a total of 22 farmers, 12 from Fadhigaab and 10 from GarAdag were able to continue farming on their own to generate some food and sell the surplus, money which they said helped them acquire other household items.

<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Achieved to date</b>
<b>Sector: Agriculture and Food Security</b>	
<b>Sub sector: Seed systems and Agricultural inputs</b>	
Indicator 1: (Projected) increase in number of months of food self-sufficiency due to distributed seed systems/agricultural inputs for beneficiary families <b>Target: 2 months</b>	The average increase in food self-sufficiency due to distributed inputs was 2.5 months for all 240 HHs (1,440 beneficiaries).
Indicator 2: Number of people benefiting from seed systems/agricultural input activities <b>Target: 8,250 (including 1,815 IDPs)</b>	240 HHs (1,440 beneficiaries) benefited from the training and seeds in the project.

## **Water, Sanitation & Hygiene**

### **Objective 2: Increase access to safe water supply and improved hygiene practices**

The sector worked with 19,000 persons from 24 different villages across Sanaag and Togdheer.

#### **Water Supply**

22 *berkads* (subsurface water tanks) of assorted capacities were rehabilitated, serving communities in 20 villages, 15 of which were in the Sanaag region and 5 villages in the Togdheer region. All the *berkads* captured water during the September 2012 rains, and by the end of the reporting period were full to capacity, representing more than 6 million Liters (more than 1.6 million gallons) of new storage capacity.

Eight community institutions benefitted from roof catchments which were rehabilitated during the period under review. Each of the catchments had a 50M<sup>3</sup> masonry tank for water collection. Seven schools and one Mother and Child Health (MCH) Center, all in Sanaag, benefitted from the rehabilitation. This will provide an additional 13,000 gallons of storage capacity in these communities, specifically to support pregnant and lactating mothers, infants, and school children.

A total of eight shallow wells in three different villages were protected with a well head to prevent contamination, a skirt to control runoff and an animal trough for shoats which are usually left behind in Somali villages to provide milk for children and women, while men drive their herds to pasture lands far away from their own villages.

#### **Hygiene Promotion**

The hygiene promotion activities were carried out in 24 villages using the Participatory Hygiene and Sanitation Transformation (PHAST) approach, including Child Hygiene and Sanitation Training (CHAST) and mother to child hygiene approach. Village hygiene and sanitation committees were formed in each of the 24 villages targeted and trained for 3 days on PHAST. Each committee is comprised of 12 members with at least 3 women included on each committee. The trained committee members were tasked to create awareness on hygiene in 60 households in their respective villages over a period of two months from the day of completion of training.

A total of 72 households in each of the 24 villages were reached, including those of the committee members. The village Hygiene and Sanitation Committees were supplied with sanitation tools to assist them in organizing and executing village clean-up campaigns in their villages. Through the village Hygiene and Sanitation Committees, a total of 1,728 households were supplied with a three month regimen of Aquatabs (100 tablets) for treatment of drinking water at the household level and hand-washing soap (2,400g) to enhance proper hand-washing.

Seven schools, 6 primary and 1 secondary, benefitted from the CHAST training. Thirty pupils were trained from each school and emphasis placed on the importance of hand-washing to curb water/sanitation related diseases. Three trainings on the mother to child hygiene approach, targeting lactating mothers attending MCH centers were carried out, benefitting a total of 60 women.

A rapid survey at the end of the cost modification indicated a delay in adoption of operation and maintenance (O&M) plans and activities, particularly community-based resource mobilization. In addition, there was a slow uptake of PHAST training content to adopt good practices. Accordingly, a no-cost extension period has been used to continue training and promotion of best practice in water resource management and hygiene behavior.

<b>Sector: Water, Sanitation and Hygiene</b>	
<b>Sub sector: Water Supply</b>	
Indicator 1: Average water usage of target population in liters per person per day prior to and after interventions <b>Target: 4 liters/person/day</b>	The baseline water usage was 2.8 liters per person per day. This indicator will be at end of project.
Indicator 2: Number and percent of water points with measurable chlorine residual exceeding 0.2 mg/l <b>Target: 51 water points (90% of sampled households from 28 water points)</b>	Reported at end of project.
Indicator 3: Number and percent of water committee members retaining water management knowledge two months after training <b>Target: (80% of 196 members = 157)</b>	Reported at end of project.
<b>Sub sector: Hygiene Promotion</b>	
Indicator 1: Percent of target population demonstrating good hand-washing practices <b>Target: 60% (12,000 individuals)</b>	Reported at end of project.
Indicator 2: Percentage of target population demonstrating correct water usage and storage <b>Target: 60% (12,000 individuals)</b>	Reported at end of project.
Indicator 3: Number and percent of clean water points functioning three months after completion <b>Target: 75% (27 water points)</b>	A total of 38 water points consisting of 22 berkads, 8 tanks and 8 shallow wells were rehabilitated and all of them are in use.
Indicator 4: Percent increase in soap sales <b>Target: 5%</b>	Reported at end of project.

## Beneficiary Story 1- Agriculture & Food Security

For Waris Hassan Cige, life did not offer anything for her and her family to appreciate, especially soon after the 2011 drought. Waris, 38 years old and married with 7 children, asserts that during the 2011 drought, her flock of 70 animals was lost, rendering them destitute and hopeless. Waris is from Fadhigaab village in Sanaag region. She was one of the 30 farmers that WCDO supported through training on crop farming and provision of farm inputs to commence crop farming as an alternative source of livelihood to address household food scarcity and malnutrition. She is a happy lady now; having grasped the skill of farming and carried it forward on her own even after the end of the WCDO-supported activity. This year, she cultivated her own farm with support from her children and planted vegetables including tomatoes, cabbages, onions and watermelons.



*Waris Hassan Cige at her farm in Fadhigaab Village*

She has had one harvest so far and expects another very soon. She says that she has established a grocery in the village where she sells her vegetables to earn cash which she uses to buy household items, uniforms and books to send her children to school. From her farming business she has been able to send three of her seven children to school and hopes that since her farming is not dependent on rain (she uses water from a nearby river), she will rise to greater heights, see her family build a good house and the children get an education to the highest level possible. Waris Hassan is full of joy and gratitude to WCDO for its support to her and 11 others who are now becoming seasoned farmers in the village.

## Beneficiary story 2-WASH

Mr. Aiqire Axmed Mire is an old man full of joy and hope arising from WCDO's interventions in his village for the past year. Aiqire, who is 56 years old and married to Saynab Abdi with six children, gladly asserts that his family now has hope of a better tomorrow considering that the community appointed him as one of the beneficiaries of the SOLIS II project that rehabilitated berkads in the village. Left with only 8 goats after the 2011 drought that swept through the area, depriving residents of their only source of livelihoods, life has been a nightmare for him and his wife to feed their children, two of which are still very young. Having lost most of his flock, his children did not have anything else to look after and some of them were forced to find alternative sources of income, including casual labor. Due to few work opportunities and poor pay, things did not improve. According to Mr. Aiqire, the drought disintegrated his family and has caused him and his wife unprecedented physical and psychological harm. Their hardships forced his wife to go out and herd other people's flocks in order to find some food for her family.



*Mr. and Mrs. Aiqire Axmed Mire with their youngest daughter*

Fortunately, the community decided to have Aiqire's berkad rehabilitated. As caretaker, he can feed his family and begin rebuilding his life from the fees people pay to draw water from his berkad. WCDO and the elders met and discussed the issue and were able to come to an agreement about the role Mr. Aiqire was to play in maintaining the berkad. His berkad, with a capacity of 200M<sup>3</sup>, was rebuilt in the second quarter of the project and soon filled in the April 2012 rains. In the current report period, the short rains of September filled the berkad again, thus allowing the Aiqire family a sustainable form of income. Aiqire declares that from selling the water, he was able to collect close to USD 400 in the last two months. According to Aiqire, he fell sick a couple of weeks ago and was referred to the Burao District hospital from the local health center for further treatment. The money earned from the water sales became very useful in supporting his travel and also to partly pay for hospital charges after treatment. He says that to him the *berkad* is a blessing and he so much appreciates WCDO.



*Mr. Aiqire at the inlet end of the berkad*

**APPENDIX: PHOTOS**



*Community members attending PHAST training at Balanbaal-Togdeheer*



*A village clean-up exercise at Lasdomare in Sanaag*



*A berkad rehabilitated at Turr in Sanaag*



*CHAST training in progress at Sincarro Primary School*