

Annex I:

DISAGGREGATED BENEFICIARY TABLES, CHARTS AND KEY QUARTER 3 ACTIVITIES

Table I: Newly registered beneficiaries by community

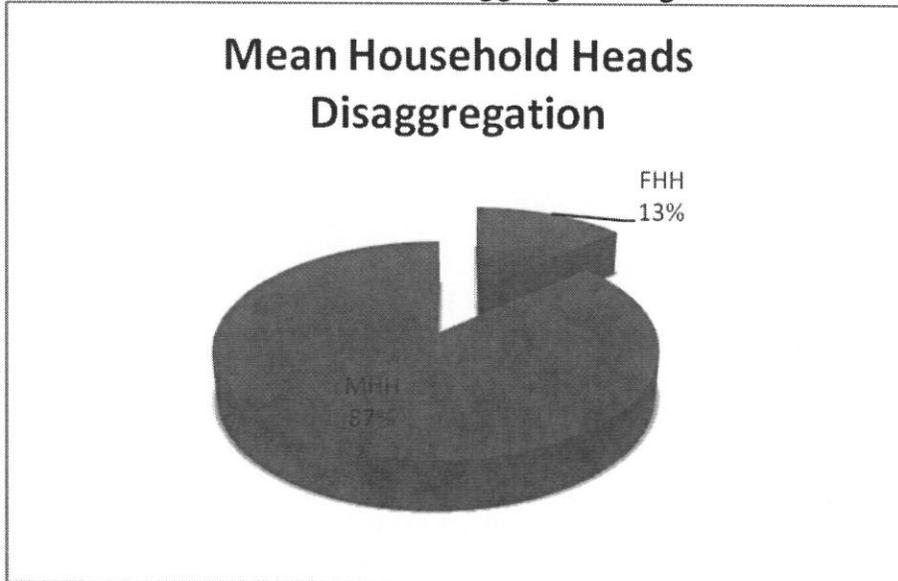
District	Number of additional HHs Registered	Total HHs Registered up to end of Quarter three
Dhubab	608	1566
Mawza	499	2662
Al Mokha	886	4718
Total	1993	8946

Table II: Disaggregated figure of additional beneficiaries by gender of heads of household

Category	Category				Total HHs
	Female Headed HHS**		Male Head HHs		
	No	%	No	%	
Dhubab	106	17	502	83	608
Mawza	78	16	421	84	499
Mokha	93	10	793	90	886
Total	277	13.8%	1716	86.2%	1993

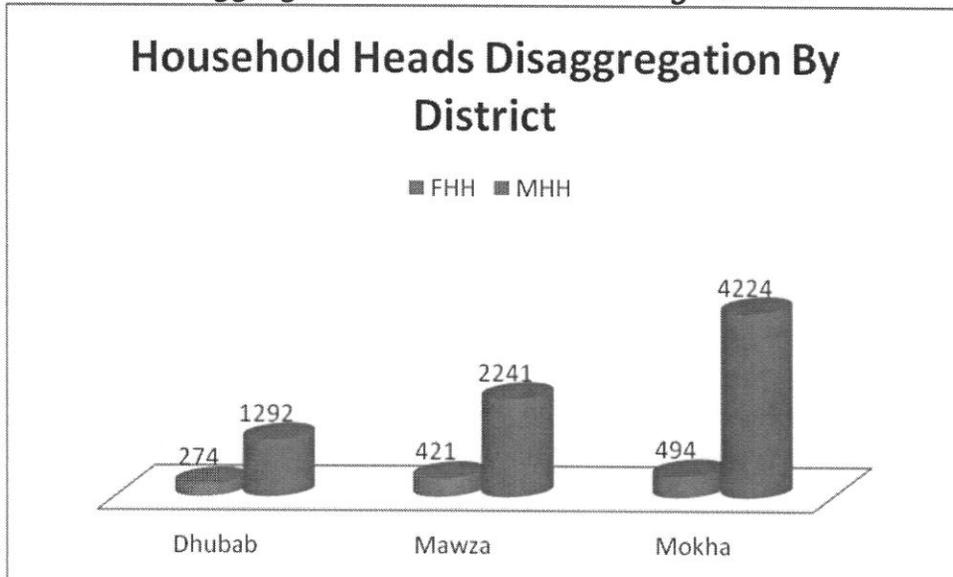
****Female headed households constitute a lower proportion of the populations in the three districts**

Chart I: Household Heads Disaggregated by Female or Male Heads



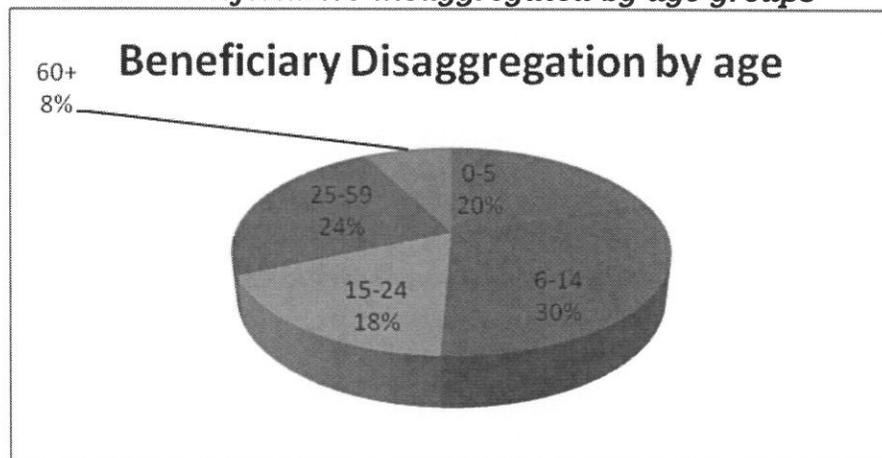
Women headed households constitute 1,180 households (13.2%) of the 8,946 households that received vouchers. In most communities, women headed households are predominantly managed by women with very few or no economically active members. Priority was given to Female Headed Households during registration

Chart II: Disaggregated Household Heads by District



Disaggregating beneficiary households that received vouchers in quarter three, 17.5% of household heads from Dhubab district who received vouchers was female headed households; Mawza district, 15.8% female headed households; and Mokha district, 10.5% female headed households. The food commodities obtained by households from the exchange of vouchers benefited a total of 75,981 household members.

Chart III: Beneficiaries disaggregated by age groups



Age Group	Total beneficiaries	Percentage
0-5	15,198	20%
6-14 Years	22,794	30%
15-24	13,676	18%
25-59	18,235	24%
60+	6,078	8%
Total	75,981	100%

Interview with beneficiary households indicated that children under five are benefiting from the food commodities. According to them, children up to one year old mainly consume the rice and wheat flour palatably prepared by mothers. Children above one year old consume all the commodities together with the parents

Key Activities for Quarter 3

Key Activity	PERIOD			Comments
	January	February	March	
Distribution and redemption of vouchers to 8,953 households	1	2	3	Three sets of distributions anticipated
Local-Regional Procurement Research				External Consultant
Hygiene Promotion				
Community Nutrition awareness				
Household Monitoring				
Vendors Monitoring				

Annex II

HUMAN INTEREST STORY FROM TEFP/FFP

FFP Human Interest Story

Khamisah is 45 years old and a resident of Mawza District of Taiz Governorate. Khamisah's husband and elder son (Saleh Abdulrahman), both fishermen, brought happiness to their 8 household members whenever they returned home from seas. The income from the sale of fish was adequate to meet the basic needs for the household.

While toiling one night at sea, in anticipation of a bigger catch the father and son came face to face with the terror of a stormy sea. All efforts to save themselves from the sea storm were futile, and the two breadwinners of Khamisah's household lost their lives.

Faced with the enormous challenge of taking care of the family, Khamisah resorted to herding sheep for neighbors to access income. However, income earned from herding sheep is meager. It does not cover the cost of food, health, and other basic needs for a household of six persons.

Fortunately, Khamisah was identified, verified, and registered as one of Taiz Emergency Food Project (TEFP/FFP) beneficiaries. Being a beneficiary of the TEFP/FFP was an impetus to increase her herding job. Khamisah says that the monthly food commodities monthly allows her to save income earned from herding to secure a more productive asset for her family. Her aspiration is to purchase a pair of the same kind/species of sheep she is herding. Khamisah has been saving her cash from the day she received her first ration. She is optimistic that the first sheep will be purchased by the end of January 2013. Khamisah describes the vouchers as "a gift/blessing from the sky. It's my life and the life of my five children," she exclaimed with great excitement.



Annex III:

Household Baseline Survey

Household Baseline Survey

Baseline survey data entry and analysis were completed during the reporting quarter. The baseline survey collected data on the extent of food insecurity in three project districts and the coping mechanisms of households in response to the situation. A structured household survey questionnaire—incorporating two food security assessment tools—was developed, tested and administered to 380 households in the three districts.

The survey questionnaire was based on a thirty-day recall up to the day before the administration of the questionnaire. The thirty-day recall is a tool used to explore households coping strategies 30 days before the day of interview. For example, ***“how many days have you had to eat food that you would not prefer because you do not have, or do not have money to buy the preferred food?”***

The sample was calculated at 95% confidence level and proportionally distributed in all three districts

The Coping Mechanism Index (CSI) and the Household Food Insecurity Access Scale (HFIAS) were the two assessment tools adopted for the survey. The CSI is a tool for rapid measurement of household food security and the impact of food aid programs in humanitarian emergencies. It measures people’s behavior when they cannot access enough food. Equally, the HFIAS is a measurement of food insecurity. The approach is used to estimate the prevalence of food insecurity and is based on the concept that the experience of food insecurity (access) causes predictable reactions and responses that can be captured and quantified through a survey and summarized in a scale.

Baseline main findings

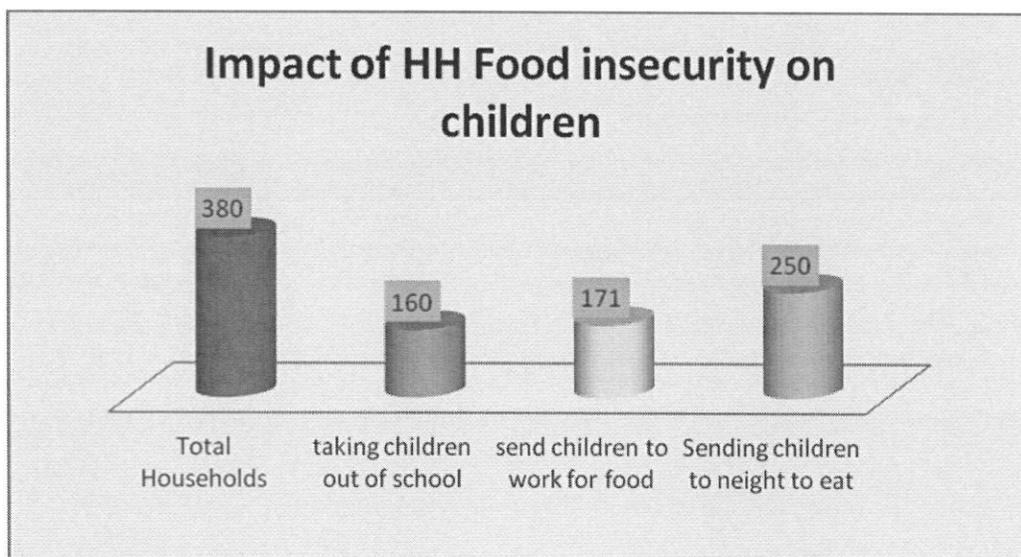
Findings from the baseline survey indicated food insecurity conspired with poverty obliged households in the three districts to employ coping strategies that undermine their future.

The mean CSI for the three districts was calculated at 93 and the HFIAS Score was 13.5 on a scale of 0-27. Unlike the HFIAS, the coping strategy index does not have a specific range to determine level of food insecurity but the higher the score, the more food insecure the households become. However, a CSI of 93 is an indication of severe food insecurity level given that most households

have adopted extreme coping mechanism. An end line survey will be conducted and reduction in severe food insecurity will be indicated by a decreased CSI.

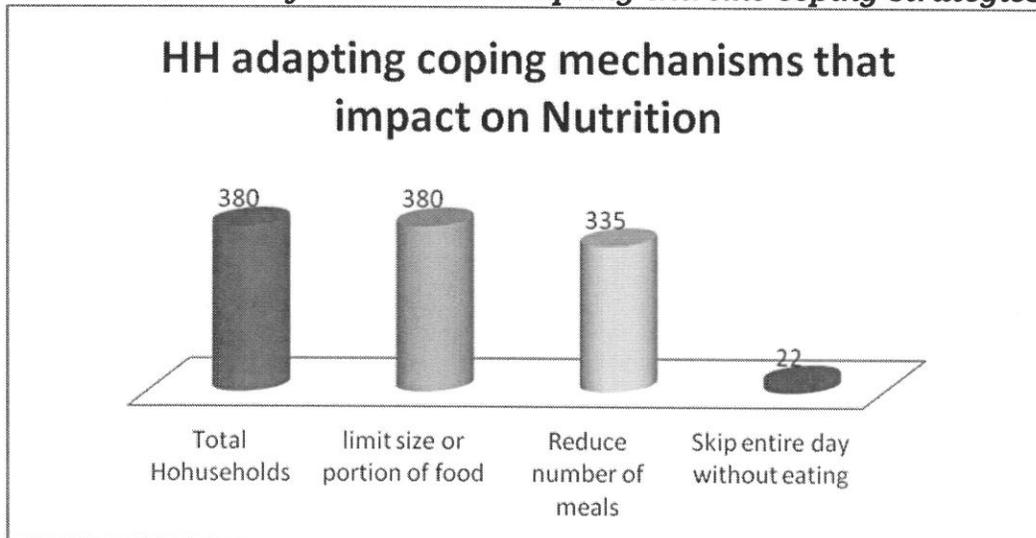
HFIAS data analysis indicated that 92% of all respondents confirmed either they or a member of their household going to sleep at night hungry because there was not enough food, while 4% of either the respondents or a member of their household went a whole day and night without eating anything because there was not enough food. The CSI analysis showed that 22% of households skipped entire day without eating because there was no food or income to purchase food.

Chart IV: Household Coping Strategies and the effects on children



In response to the difficult access to food coupled with chronic poverty, an estimated 20% of households sold their jewelry; 27% sold productive assets such as farm implements; 41% withdrew children from school; 45% sent children to work for food. In addition to several other coping behaviors, households limited the size of meals and reduced the number of meals per day

Chart V: Number of households adapting extreme coping strategies



An end line survey will be conducted towards the end of the project and data used to determine or gauge the extent to which the FFP has reduced coping strategies and increased food access for beneficiary households

	WHEN	ACTIVITY	WHO
ADVANCE TRANSFER	by the <u>1st</u> of each month	Mercy Corps Advance (determined based on number of beneficiaries in a month) sent to Post Office) and 2.5% of fee calculated based on anticipated value of redemption payment	MERCY CORPS
ADVANCE TO DISBURSE TO POST OFFICE-DISTRICT	by the <u>2nd</u> of each month	Post Office - Taiz disburse the advance to branches	POST OFFICE TAIZ
VOUCHER PAYMENT	anytime within calendar month during Post Office working hours; last redemption payments must be done on the 30th of a month	Vendor-Post Office District: Vendor brings following documents to support redemption claim: 1. Vouchers, 2. Receipts (VR), 3. Copy of negotiated prices	POST OFFICE - DISTRICT
	<u>immediately after submission of vendor documents</u> , in the presence of vendor	Post Office - District: 1. counts and screen vouchers 2. Record voucher count per commodity (Voucher Reconciliation Sheet) 4. Reconcile: voucher count with receipts 5. Conduct the payment 6. Issues the redemption receipt to vendor 7. Pack and label vouchers	POST OFFICE - DISTRICT
MONTHLY REDEMPTION REPORTS	by the <u>5th</u> of following month	Post Office - Taiz 1. Collects all redemption packages from District offices 2. Verifies the reports 3. Consolidates reports from districts into 1 Monthly Redemption Report 4. Reconcile advance with payments processed 5. Prepares Account Statement 6. Prepares Invoice for the Service Fee Payment 7. Submits Monthly Reporting Package to Mercy Corps Taiz	POST OFFICE - TAIZ
MONTHLY FEE	by <u>15th</u> of each month	Mercy Corps 1. Reviews Monthly Redemption Report 2. Reconciles Monthly Redemption Report with Beneficiary Distribution 2. Transfers remaining part of monthly administration fee	MERCY CORPS
MONTH CLOSED		Post Office: 1. unspent advance is carried forward for next month redemption cycle	POST OFFICE

Annex V: Market Price Monitoring Data Collection Summary

The FFP project collected market prices for the four commodities in the food basket. The data collection took place in the three districts considered as destinations and Taiz (origin).

There are price variations amongst the three districts. Generally, the price of 50 kg wheat flour is lower in Dhubab than the other two districts. The average price of a 50 Kg of wheat flour was 5,400 Yemeni Riyalsⁱ (YER) in October 2012 for both Dhubab and Mawza district; 5,688 YER for Mokha district; and 5500 YER for Taiz (one of the supply sources).

Both supply source and terminal markets (Dhubab, Mokha, and Mawza) experienced increase in the price of 50 kg of wheat flour. There was a 5.5% increase in the price of wheat flour in Taiz with a corresponding increase of 3.7% in Dhubab; Mawza district 7.4% in the Mawza; and 5.0% increase in Mokha district. The increase in the price of wheat was not an effect of the FFP project but could be attributed to macro-economic causes. The increase in price of wheat flour did not affect the project.

Though prices of rice and vegetable oil varied from one district to the other, prices remained stable in quarter three. The graphs below depict price trends for three commodities.

Chart VI: Price comparison for 50 Kgs wheat flour between district and supply source

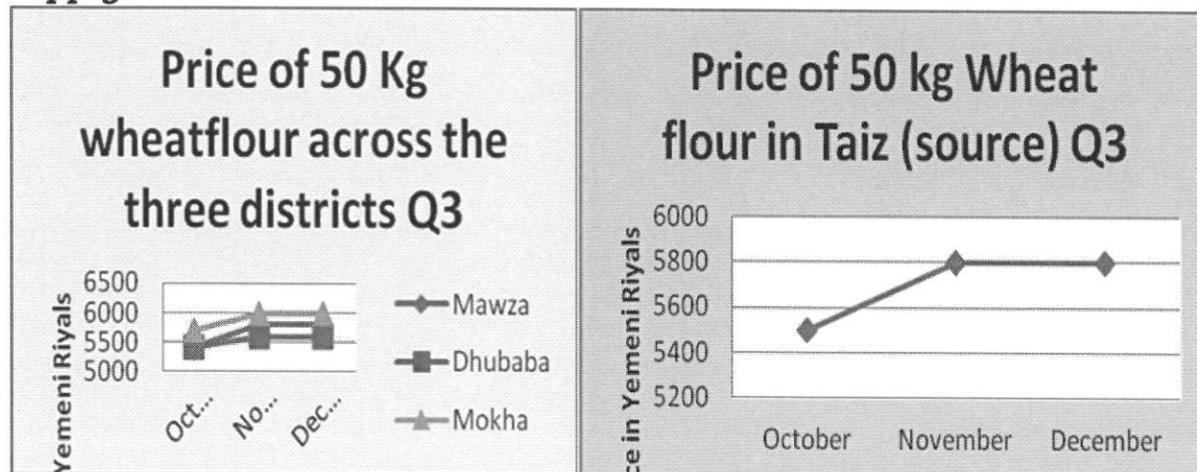
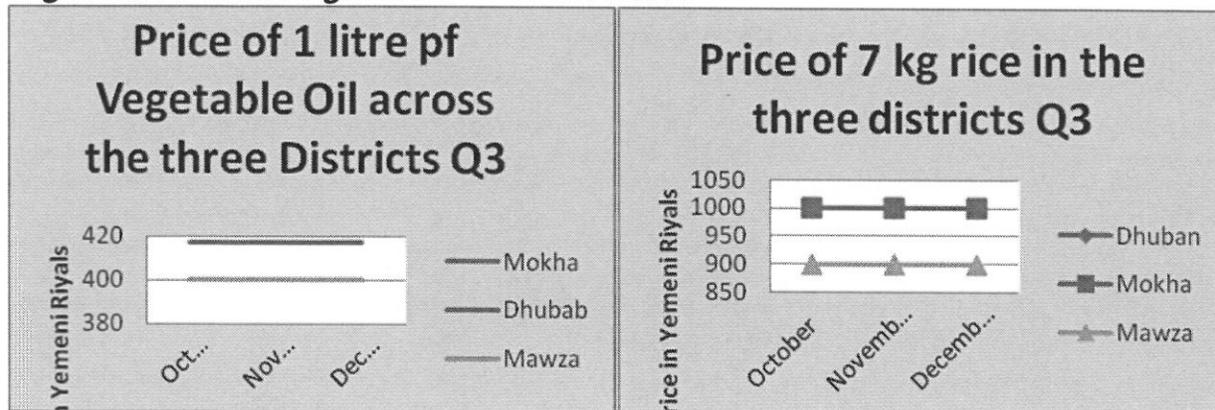


Chart VII: Market Price comparison for 7 Kgs of rice and 1 liter of vegetable oil amongst the three Districts



Annex VI: Performance based on initial target

Performance Indicator		Reporting Date to FFP					
Level	Indicators	Targets	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Remarks
Overall Goal	Enhanced food security and resilience to vulnerable households in Taiz Governorate through provision of emergency food rations.						
Objective 1	Increase food security for 50,400 persons in 7,200 vulnerable households in Al Mukha, Mawza, and Dhubab Districts of Taiz Governorate through eight months of targeted emergency food rations during political transition						
Indicator 1	# households and # of beneficiaries receiving food rations meets objectives	7,200 50,400	3.6% (262 households)	96.5% (6,953 HHs)	124 % (8,946 HHs)		8,946 households (75,981 persons) benefitted from food rations
Indicator 2	% of voucher distributions occurring on time		4%	96.50%	124%		8,946 Households of total beneficiaries received vouchers
Indicator 3	% households receiving quantity of commodity specified by voucher	90%	4%	96.50%	124%		8,946 households received 25 kgs of wheat flour, 7 Kgs of rice, 2 liters of vegetable oil, and 24 cans of beans (410g each)
Indicator 4	Reduction in Coping Strategy Index Scores						Baseline survey and analysis completed. End line survey expected to measure change
Indicator 5	% increase in the average food security access scale						Baseline survey and analysis completed. End line survey expected to measure change

Performance based on proposed target

Indicator	Baseline	Actual Up to date	Proposed Target
# households and # of beneficiaries receiving food rations meets objectives	N/A	8,946 Households	8,965 households
% of voucher distributions occurring on time	N/A	124% of baseline target and 99.7% of proposed target	100% of 8,965 households
% households receiving quantity of commodity specified by voucher	N/A	124% of baseline target and 99.7% of proposed target	90% of 8,865 households
Reduction in Coping Strategy Index Scores	93 CSI*	To be determined by end line survey	
% increase in the average food security access scale	13.5 (out of 0-27) HFIAS	To be determined by end line survey	

***The HFIAS, the coping strategy index does not have a specific range to determine level of food insecurity but the higher the score, the more food insecure the households become. However, a CSI of 93 is an indication of severe food insecurity level given that most households have adopted extreme coping mechanism**



QUARTERLY REPORT for the period
1 October – 31 December 2012

Taiz Emergency Food Program
Funded by USAID/Food for Peace

COUNTRY CONTACT	HEADQUARTERS CONTACT	PROJECT SUMMARY	
Name: Ali Eltayeb Acting Country Director Hadda Madina, Street 21, Apt 5 Sana'a, Yemen Phone: (967) 734000721 aeltayeb@ye.mercycorps.org	Name: Dalia Emara Senior Program Officer 1730 Rhodes Island Avenue NW, Suite 809 Washington DC, 20036 Phone: 2024698476 demara@dc.mercycorps.org	Agreement No. Start Date End Date Report Date Total Award	AID-FFP-G-12-00027 1 April 2012 29 Feb 2013 31st December 2012 \$ 4,780.900

1. Program Overview

The Taiz Emergency Food Program (TEFP) was initially designed to be implemented over a period of eleven months (1st April 2012- 29th February 2013) in four districts targeting 72,00 households. However, the project currently operates in three districts and expects to run through the end of May 2013, targeting a total of 8,965 households. The project is providing eight months of food commodities to households through a voucher system in the three districts. The three districts are among the areas identified as having high nutritional gaps as a result of political and economic shocks in Yemen. The populations in these districts will be subjected to further severe food insecurity, acute malnutrition and asset depletion in the absence of humanitarian assistance.

Project Objectives and Results

The main objective of the project is to increase food security for 50,400 individuals in 7,200 vulnerable households in Dhubab, Al Waziiyah, Al Mokha and Mawza Districts of Taiz Governorate, Yemen through eight months of targeted emergency food rations during the political transition

The project has three main expected results:

Result 1.1: 7,200 HHs identified that meet the vulnerability and food insecurity criteria

Result 1.2: 7,200 HHs redeem 8 months of commodity vouchers

Result 1.3 7200 HHs have increased household food availability

2. Performance Summary

Summary of Quarterly Progress Report

General Overview

This quarter witnessed a number of achievements. Additional vulnerable households were identified, verified, and finally included in the FFP registry to benefit from food commodities distribution. Distribution vouchers for two months of food commodities covering 8,946 households was completed during the quarter. Additionally, vouchers redeemed by local post offices for the months of June to September 2012 were collected and reconciled, while the collection and reconciliation of vouchers distributed for October and November is ongoing. Four additional staff members were hired to strengthen the FFP team. Periodic data collection of prices on food commodities included in the food basket continued during the reporting period. To ensure gender integration in the FFP program to its maximum, the M&E team began collecting data on Sex and Age Disaggregation Data (SADD) during the quarter.

The FFP team received basic training in hygiene awareness during the quarter, with the objective of conducting hygiene awareness amongst beneficiaries. Data analysis and the drafting of baseline survey report were completed during the quarter. Additionally, the Knowledge Attitude and Practice Survey data collection on nutrition was concluded during the quarter. Finally, a No Cost Extension of the FFP project was submitted to USAID

(DCHA/FFP/DP) on January 3rd, 2013. If approved, the FFP will be extended for an additional three months.

Results:

Result 1.1: 7,200 Households identified that meet the vulnerability and food insecurity criteria

R1.1.1 Identify and target vulnerable households based on established criteria

An additional 1,993 vulnerable households (about 13,951 beneficiaries) were identified, verified and included in the registry. The newly registered beneficiaries, in addition to the existing 6,953 beneficiary households, brings the total number of beneficiary households to 8,946. ***(Annex I presents detailed tables on additional beneficiaries)***



Beneficiary Registration in Dhubab district

Result 1.2: 7,200 households redeem 8 months of commodity vouchers

R 1.2.1: Establish commodity voucher mechanism

The voucher distribution mechanism developed and tested in the pilot distribution in June 2012 was adopted as the most efficient method. This mechanism will remain in use up to the end of the project. The voucher mechanism entails an accountable and transparent process. ***(Annex IV provides a summary of the voucher redemption process)***

Each beneficiary household receives a set of vouchers comprised of four commodities: rice (7kgs.); wheat flour (25 kgs.); beans (24 cans); and vegetable oil (1.8 liters).

R1.2.2: Implement commodity distribution to vulnerable households through voucher mechanism

During this reporting quarter, beneficiaries received two months of food commodity vouchers covering the months of October and November 2012. The number of beneficiaries receiving food commodity vouchers during the quarter exceeded the original target of 7200 households. The excess numbers of beneficiaries were achieved from savings made by the project. A total of 8,946 households (75,981 beneficiaries) received food commodity vouchers each of the two months. The food commodities received per household per month included wheat flour (25kg); rice (7 kg); beans (24 cans of 410 grams); vegetable oil (1.8 liters). The beans are produced and canned in Yemen, the wheat flour is milled and fortified in Yemen, and the grains are imported from the United States of America.

Both Sex and Age Disaggregation data and baseline data indicates that female headed households constitute a lower proportion of the populations in the three districts. Of the

total 8,946 households benefiting from commodity distribution, 1180 households were headed by females while 7,766 were headed by males.

Within targeted households, children under the age of five are reportedly benefiting from the food commodities. Children up to one year old mainly consume the rice and wheat flour palatably prepared by mothers. Children older than a year consume all the commodities along with the parents. *(See Annex I disaggregated charts for beneficiaries)*

Result 1.3: 7200 Households have increased household food availability

R 1.3.1 Household Baseline Survey

Baseline survey data entry and analysis were completed during the reporting quarter. The baseline survey collected data on the extent of food insecurity in the three project districts and the coping mechanisms of households in response to the situation. A structured household survey questionnaire—incorporating two food security assessment tools—was developed, tested and administered to 380 households in the three districts.

Findings from the baseline survey indicated that food insecurity, in combination with poverty, caused households in the three districts to employ coping strategies that undermine their future. The mean CSI for the three districts was calculated at 93 and the HFIAS Score was 13.5 on a scale of 0-27. **Unlike** the HFIAS the coping strategy index does not have a specific range to determine level of food insecurity, but the higher the score, the more food insecure the households become. A CSI of 93 is an indication of severe food insecurity level, given that most households have adopted extreme coping mechanisms. An end line survey will be conducted and reduction in severe food insecurity will be indicated by a decreased CSI. *(Please see annex III for summary of findings)*

R1.3.2: Nutrition Knowledge, Attitude, and Practice (KAP) Survey.

A KAP survey on nutrition that began in September 2012 was concluded in the third quarter. The survey was intended to collect data to inform the design of an awareness campaign and training on improved nutrition practices. The campaign is expected to contribute to the reduction of malnutrition in the project communities. At the same time, FFP staff received training in basic hygiene promotion during quarter one. The staff will create hygiene awareness amongst beneficiaries during voucher distributions. Plans are underway to extend the campaign to various schools as well as providing trainings to imams (religious leaders) to include hygiene promotion in their Friday sermons.

R 1.4: Project Monitoring

The TEFPP/ FFP Project have a robust monitoring mechanism in place to identify and respond to irregularities. There is also a grievance/complaint mechanism in place whereby beneficiaries, non-beneficiaries, and other concerned persons can report any observed or perceived fraud or irregularity to Mercy Corps. The system has proven to be very successful. *(Please see Annex III for summary)*

R1.4.1. Sex and Age Disaggregation Data (SADD) Collection

FFP project monitoring activities continued during the reporting quarter. The Monitoring and Evaluation team collected Sex and Age Disaggregation Data on beneficiaries in the

three districts. The SADD data is instrumental in providing information on the extent of gender integration in the project and an informed thinking on improving gender integration in future program design and implementation. The data will help to design evidence based gender integrated program in Yemen

R1.4.2. Market Price Monitoring Data Collection

The FFP project also collected market prices for the four commodities in the food basket. The data collection took place in the three districts considered as destinations and Taiz (the origin). *(Please see annex V for market survey summary)* There are price variations amongst the three districts. Generally, the price of 50 kg wheat

Coordination

At the national level, Mercy Corps is represented at the Food Security and Agriculture meeting regularly held in Sana'a. Mercy Corps also submits regular monthly reports to the Food Security and Agriculture sector and participates in food security sector planning meetings. Mercy Corps is also a member of cash/market based programming (CTP) forum held in Sana'a each month. In Taiz, Mercy Corps is a member of the nutrition and health cluster. In addition, a coordination mechanism exists between UNICEF, WFP and Mercy Corps to promote complementarities and avoid duplication of activities.

There is also internal coordination between the TEFP/FFP and the ECHO funded Nutrition projects implemented by Mercy Corps in Taiz. There has been a number of staff exchange visits between these projects for cross-learning purposes. The KAP Survey was jointly designed and administered by the Nutrition project and the TEFP/FFP projects. The outcome of the data analysis will jointly be discussed and appropriate response plan designed and implemented by the two projects.

Challenges and Lessons Learned

Challenges for the team are decreasing, but some remain grave and require caution. There are security challenges whereby armed men demand inclusion on the list of beneficiaries or intimidation of FFP staff by armed men demanding the registration of people of their choice. During one of the FFP voucher distribution in Ja'ashi village, an armed person tore off the distribution list and threatened to shoot at anyone who attempted to touch him.

Lessons Learned

The level of confidence for Mercy Corps has tremendously increased among beneficiaries, community leaders, as well as the skeptics. Mercy Corps staffs are recognized in all of the communities by both beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries. When community members were asked by the FFP M&E team about how TEFP/FFP benefits them, a group of women in Mokha responded, "Our debts have decreased; we are paying our debts from the money we previously used to purchase food." The community based approach used by FFP/TEFP promotes dignity and ownership. However, systems are needed to ensure transparency, equity, and accountability for all actors involved in the project.

The design of the voucher mechanism currently in use seems to be effective in achieving the 'Do No Harm' approach". There have neither been complaints from local businessmen

that the project undermines their businesses, nor any increase in prices of the selected commodities due to the presence of the TEFP/FFP project. Humanitarian needs are still grave in the communities as some vulnerable people were not targeted due to fund limitation.

Conclusion

Mercy Corps employed rigorous mechanisms to ensure proper targeting of the most vulnerable people as well as the selection of eligible vendors. This required a door-to-door process for over 80% of beneficiaries which spanned over a longer period and pushing the project two months behind schedule. Additionally, insecurity and threats in Al Waziyah delayed beneficiary registration in hopes that the situation would improve. Additionally, project activities were slowed down during Ramadan in August 2012. Therefore, a three month No Cost extension (NCE) request been submitted to USAID to recover the set back and include additional beneficiaries from savings made by the project.

TEFP/FFP has identified an internal consultant to conduct the Local and Regional Procurement (LRP) research. The research is expected to commence in early February 2013. In addition to comparing the LRP with traditional in-kind food aid and categorizing findings by time savings, cost savings, impacts, and the “do no harm” principle; the research will also while examine several broader questions concerning the effectiveness and impact of LRP compared to other food aid approaches. The research is expected to enable the Yemen team to make the case for future LRP program funding and improve on implementation.