

Quarterly Report

Q2: October 1, 2012- December 31, 2012

Emergency Assistance to IDPs and Host Communities in Southern Yemen

Funded by USAID/ Office of Foreign Disaster



Family receiving Non-food item and hygiene kit in Al-Alwana village Tuban District, Lahj Governorate Yemen

Country Contact:	Headquarters Contact:	Project Summary:
<p>Ali ElTayeb Interim Country Director Address: Hadda Madina, St #21, Villa #5 Sana'a, Yemen Telephone: +967.1-411.626</p> <p>Email: aeltayeb@ye.mercycorps.org</p>	<p>Dalia Emara Senior Program Officer 1730 Rhode Island Ave NW # 809 Washington, DC 20036 Telephone: +1 202 469 8476</p> <p>Email: demara@dc.mercycorps.org</p>	<p>Award Number: AID-OFDA-G-12-0079 Start Date: June 2012 End Date: June 2013 Report Date: November 31, 2012 Total Award: \$2,667,002</p>

Program Overview:

In March 2011, Islamic militant fighters seized control of the western city of Zinjibar in Abyan Governorate of Yemen. Yemeni government forces launched an effort to re-establish control of the region, resulting in prolonged battles that continued for over a year. As a result, more than 100,000 people were displaced due to the fighting and families fled for safety and shelter in neighboring Aden and Lahj Governorates.

During the initial months of the crisis, Yemen's humanitarian community quickly intervened to provide emergency assistance. With the conflict lasting more than a year, and IDPs continuing to arrive through June of 2012, many families required humanitarian assistance to meet basic needs. Soon after initiation of the project the Yemen government declared the conflict over and with the end of conflict IDPs started to return to Abyan. According to United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) by November, 15th 2012 over 105,000 IDPs (about 85%) from across the south had returned to Abyan. With the improved security situation in Abyan most agencies, including Mercy Corps, responding to the situation were able to access the affected areas and deliver basic assistance and help returnees with their basic needs.

The Mercy Corps /OFDA program (simply referred to as Mercy Corps) is a \$2.6 million program to improve sanitation and hygiene for IDPs and host community members in Southern Yemen. Currently Mercy Corps is currently operating in both the Tuban district of Lahj and the Khanfar District in Abyan. The program has three main components:

1. Repair the small scale water network in the Lahj host community and affected areas of return in Abyan to allow better water access for both IDPs and host community members
2. Conduct an extensive hygiene campaign in the communities to raise awareness of hygiene issues
3. Distribute Non-Food Items (NFI) and Hygiene kits to IDP/Returnee families

The program will help an estimated 183,000 beneficiaries. Specifically 48,000 IDP/Returnee families will receive much needed household and hygiene items through the NFI and Hygiene kit distribution.

Performance Summary:

This past Quarter Mercy Corps has:

- Constructed a water stand and tank to be installed in Al-Humedeh village in Tuban, Lahj
- Conducted a baseline household hygiene survey
- Trained staff and local water authorities on water testing equipment
- Distributed 1,744 NFI and Hygiene Kits in Lahj and Abyan
- Trained 226 children and adults on proper hygiene in Lahj

General Program Accomplishments:

In October four project team members and the Program Manager attended a 3 day Gender Training lead by a Mercy Corps Gender Specialist. The training participants discussed gender in general terms, specific to Yemen, and how to make programs gender sensitive. As a result of this training a checklist for integrating gender in to WASH programs is being developed and will be finalized shortly after the New Year. Another important topic covered was the importance of collecting Sex and Age Disaggregated Data (SADD) and a commitment was made by all attendees to incorporate this in to programs. For example, the OFDA program is collecting SADD information for Hygiene trainings which is shown under Objective 2 below.

Program Accomplishments by Objective:

Objective 1:

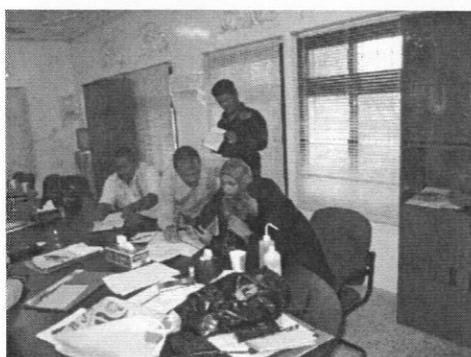
Objective 1: Improve IDP and host communities' access to water by rehabilitating small-scale water networks		
Major Activities this Quarter:	Progress During Reporting Period:	Expected Completion Date:
Conduct baseline survey to identify consumption rates	Baseline data collection finished and analysis started.	Analysis has started and the report will be completed early in Quarter 3.
Conduct survey of community water networks to identify repairs needed	Survey of communities in Lahj finished by engineers. Water stand project identified for one village	Water stand to be installed in Jan 2013. Engineers to start survey of potential Abyan projects Jan 2013.
Purchase portable chlorine level testing equipment for GARWASP	Testing equipment was procured during Q1. Water testing training for water corporation workers from Abyan and Lahj during Q2.	Equipment and chemicals to be donated to Water Authority during Quarter 3.
Indicator 1.1: Number of the community water and sanitation maintenance projects implemented		
	Actual to Date:	Target:
Number of Projects	2	5
Indicator 1.2: Number and percent of household water supplies with 0% coliform bacteria		
	Actual to Date:	Target:
Number Tested:	0	0
Indicator 1.3: Average water usage of target population in liters per person per day prior to and after interventions		
	Baseline:	Target:
Average Water Use:	27 L per person per day; includes all uses	To be determined based on projects
Indicator 1.4: Number and percent of water points with detectible chlorine level over 0.2 mg/l		
	Baseline:	Target:
Number Tested	0	10%

The water stand for Al-Humedeh village will not only provide water for that village but also supplement the water available to Am-Burahah village. This means a total of 25 families (approximately 150 people) will have increased access to water. The stand for the tank has been manufactured and the contractor is preparing for installation which is planned for early in Quarter 3.

A baseline survey covering hygiene and water issues was implemented during November 2012 (details on methodology found under Objective 2). Access to water was measured by how long it took them one way to walk to get water, how long they had to stand in line, and how many times a day they had to fill water

containers. Ninety-one percent of people had to walk more than 10 minutes to get water. Two thirds of people had to wait more than 30 minutes in line to get water and 35% collected water more than 2 times per day. This means the majority of people are spending at least 50 minutes per day collecting water.

In addition to providing Hach brand water testing equipment to the government officials, Mercy Corps wanted to make sure they were properly trained on its use. In December, a four day training was provided to participants from the Water Corporations in both Lahj and Abyan along with Mercy Corps staff.



Water testing training

Objective 2:

Objective 2: Increase awareness about health and sanitation through hygiene promotion in the Southern Governorates of Yemen		
Major Activities This Quarter:	Progress During This Reporting Period:	Expected Completion Date:
Conduct Baseline survey on current hygiene and water	Baseline data collection completed in November. Initial analysis finished at end	Final data analysis and baseline report will be ready during quarter 3.

storage practices	of December.	
Conduct hygiene promotion campaign in market centers, public institutions and schools	Hygiene materials have been printed and trainings have begun in schools and communities in Lahj.	An Awareness campaign will be completed in Lahj during the first week of January 2013 and then the Campaign will start in Abyan during the first month of Q3 and expected to finish by March 30, 2013.

Hygiene Training Attendees by Sex and Age		
Age:	Females:	Males:
0-14	60	40
15-24	0	0
25-49	126	0
60+	0	0
Total:	186	40

Hygiene trainings for women and children were held in three villages in Lahj with plans to continue in the other villages in Quarter 3. Due to the fact that women in Yemeni society are responsible for most of the hygiene tasks we chose to have them as one of our target groups, plus they can teach their children proper hygiene. Children need to be taught proper hygiene at a young age making them another focus of the trainings. In total 226 women and children were involved in the training. Breakdown of ages is included in the chart to the left. Small kits with soap, washcloth, toothbrush and toothpaste were

distributed to each child for reinforcement of the healthy habits taught during the program. Small posters for hanging in the house are given to the women and children. Large posters are secured to the walls in community places such as schools to make sure the message reach everyone in the community. Topics of the training and posters include: hand washing, hygiene, water storage, water purification and disease prevention.

Indicator 2.1: Percent of target population demonstrating good hand washing practices		
Practice:	Baseline:	Target:
Wash hands before cooking	90%	95%
Wash hands before eating	88%	95%
Wash hands after using latrine	30%	50%
Indicator 2.2: Percent of target population demonstrating correct water usage and storage		
Practice:	Baseline:	Target:
Storage containers have lids	84%	90%
Treat water before drinking	5%	10%
Indicator 2.3: Number and percent of clean water points functioning three months after completion		
	Baseline:	Target:
Clean water Points	0	5

Mercy Corps interviewed 404 heads of households, mostly women, in 21 villages about water collection, storage, personal hygiene, garbage and sanitation for the baseline survey. Families in



Children in a village after hygiene training

the villages were randomly chosen with a weighted target number for each village based on population. A total of 95% of people do not treat their water in any way before drinking. Soap for washing hands was available in 96% of houses. Only 30% of people said they washed hands after using the latrine though 81% knew one of the reasons you wash your hands is to prevent diseases; 76% of the time when people disposed of garbage they simply threw it outside of the house or in an open field. These results have helped guide hygiene promoters in the most important topics to address with community members.

Objective 3:

Objective 3: Provide non-food item (NFI) and hygiene kits to current IDP caseload, newly arriving IDPs, and pre-position returnee kits

Major Activities This Quarter:	Progress During This Reporting Period:	Expected Completion Date:
--------------------------------	--	---------------------------

Assess where IDPs are living (i.e. in the community versus in schools) to help determine NFI kit distribution points	Assessment was completed in Nov. 2012	Completed for Lahj, no need to do for Abyan government lists updated by Executive Unit in coordination with NFI cluster
Procure items for the kits	Tender process was completed and items have been delivered to the warehouse.	All procurement completed as of December 31, 2012.
Distribute Kits to identified IDP families according to distribution plan	Started distribution on 9 December in Lahj. Started distribution in Abyan on 30 December. In total 1,744 kits distributed as of 31 December.	Distributions in Abyan will continue during Quarter 3 with an estimated completion by end of February 2013.

Mercy Corps made great strides this quarter both in the logistics of distribution and in actually distributing items. After a long and complicated tender process, contracts were signed and items arrived at the warehouse. Prior to starting the tender process, Mercy Corps analyzed how to best avoid potential conflict both during the process and after the process was finished. Part of this strategy was to have an open/public tender process allowing free right to participate and fair selection with all vendors able to observe the

process. Twenty companies applied and contracts were spread over fourteen companies. Mercy Corps technical staff and procurement manager conducted a pre-bid orientation where all potential vendors were invited and briefed about Mercy Corps' technical and compliance requirements. The choice to involve so many suppliers was made because of companies being only able to supply one or two items and to allow both large and small vendors to benefit. The main deciding factor was quality, with all companies required to submit samples during the tender process. In addition, given the conflict between North and South, potential vendors from South were given preference. This decision helped increase the acceptability of Mercy Corps in general and OFDA program in particular in the region.

Indicator 3.1: Total number of NFIs distributed by type			
	Hygiene Kits:	NFI Kits:	
Total Distributed this Quarter:	1744	1744	
Target Number:	8000	8000	
Indicator 3.2: Total USD cost of NFIs by type			
	Hygiene Kits:	NFI Kits:	
Baseline:	\$37.50	\$93	
Actual Cost:	\$37.50	\$117	
Indicator 3.3: Total number of beneficiaries receiving NFIs, by type, in compliance with SPHERE standards			
	Hygiene Kits:	NFI Kits:	
Total Number of People receiving:	7541	7541	
Breakdown by Age, Gender and Distribution Area:			
	Lahj	Abyan	Total:
Number of Kits Distributed	1091	653	1744
Number of Individuals Benefiting:	5240	2301	7541
Number of Males	1534*	1165	2699
Number of Females	1550*	1136	2686
Number of Beneficiary Families	1091	653	1744

*Sex Data was only collected for participants preregistered in Lahj. During distribution only family size was collected.

2012 with the village of Al-Alawna. It soon became apparent that there were few IDPs left in the villages and plans were made to shift distribution to Abyan. At first women were reluctant to pick up their items and instead sent a male child or male family member to receive the items. Mercy Corps overcame this by engaging local leadership and using them to encourage the women to feel safe.

Distributions started in Abyan on December 30th, 2012. To help provide logistical support including warehouse space and local labor Mercy Corps signed a contract with the Society for Humanitarian Solidarity (SHS) to distribute out of their central warehouse in Ja'ar. Mercy Corps is verifying beneficiaries against the

Distributions to IDPs and host community members started in Lahj on December 9th,

approved list, collecting names ID numbers and signature or fingerprint and monitoring the distribution process. SHS laborers are helping approved families on the warehouse side to load items for transport.

As part of the distribution process in Lahj, Mercy Corps conducted a survey shortly after the beneficiaries received their item to help determine how the distribution went and if these items were needed. In all, 36 men and women were consulted in the seven villages. All of the respondents said they were happy with the distribution process. All except two said these were much needed items and that they would use them in their homes. The other two stated they would use some of the items and give some of them away to others. A post distribution survey aimed at determining what people actually did with the items and assess the perceived quality of the items is planned in Lahj and will be finished in early January 2013.



Families loading the NFI and hygiene kits for transport in Abyan

Challenges:

The largest challenge faced by Mercy Corps this Quarter has been the rapid return of IDPs to Abyan. Starting in September 2012, IDPs assessed that the conditions in Abyan were stable enough for them to return. Many households had their head of the household or several members travel to Abyan to assess the situation while the rest of the household stayed behind. The constant beneficiary movements made the assessment and the distribution planning very challenging. To overcome this initially Mercy Corps focused on mixed communities in Lahj. When it became apparent that the IDPs had left these areas as well, distribution was put on hold until plans could be made to move to Abyan.

Accessibility of the Abyan governorate remains one of the most challenging constraints to Mercy Corps and other NGOs. Security is still an on-going concern both from issues with AQAP and the local authorities but also from Unexploded Ordinance which continues to be discovered in different areas. Mercy Corps has overcome this by constantly networking with people in Abyan and collecting their assessment of the security situation.

For security and logistical reasons Mercy Corps decided to sign a contract with SHS to distribute 2,000 kits from their warehouse located in Ja'ar in Khanfar. SHS has been providing logistical support for other International Organizations and has been able to manage security. Mercy Corps staff is always on hand when distributions take place to verify names and monitor the process.

Security continues to be a concern throughout Yemen. During the past quarter security issues between the governor and local tribes shut down the main road in Lahj several times, meaning field activities were suspended until the road opened again.