



Quarterly Report
 April 1- June 30, 2013
 Emergency Assistance to IDPs and Host Communities in Southern Yemen
 Funded by USAID/ Office of Foreign Disaster

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Project Summary:

Award Number:
 AID-OFDA-G-12-0079
Start Date: June 2012
End Date: September 2013
Report Date: July 31, 2013
Total Award: \$2,667,002

Program Overview:

In March 2011, 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 150,000 people were displaced due to the fighting and many 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 Internally Displaced People (IDP) 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 IDPs started to return to Abyan. According to United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), as of March 2013 over 140,000 IDPs 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 (hereby 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 Southern Abyan. The program has three main components:

1. Repair the small scale water network in the Lahj host community and affected areas of returnees in Abyan to allow better water access for both IDPs and host community members
2. Conduct a 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 has helped an estimated 183,000 beneficiaries both IDPs/Returnees and Host Community Members. Specifically 8,254 IDP/Returnee families (41,483 men, women and children) received much-needed household and hygiene items through the NFI and Hygiene kit distribution.

Performance Summary:**This past Quarter Mercy Corps has:**

- Assessed and started repair of Lawder Hospital, one clinic and two schools in Lawder District, Abyan Governorate
- Distributed the final 284 NFI and Hygiene Kits
- Distributed 19,000 sets of consumable items from the hygiene kit

General Program Accomplishments:

Mercy Corps has extended the project to work in Lawder District this Quarter with water, sanitation and hygiene projects. Lawder is located approximately 2.5 hours from the city of Aden each way and hosted over 5,500 people who were displaced within Abyan in addition to seeing skirmish's with militant groups.

Furthermore, Mercy Corps was granted a No Cost Extension (NCE) lasting until 11 September 2013 to continue working on water project throughout Abyan. New projects to be undertaken during the NCE have been identified and will be completed during the next Quarter.

Program Accomplishments by Objective:
Objective 1:

Objective 1: <i>Improve IDP and host communities' access to water by rehabilitating small-scale water networks</i>		
Major Activities this quarter:	Progress During Reporting Period:	Expected Completion Date:
Basic Repair of Water Network	Four additional projects identified and are 50% completed	Engineers to continue to identify projects through the end of the project
Purchase portable chlorine level testing equipment for GARWASP	Activity Completed (training done in Q2, equipment and chemicals donated in Q3)	
Leak detection system for local water authority	Activity Completed	

There were four water projects started during this quarter in Lawder District. Mercy Corps is repairing the WASH systems in Lawder Hospital, Rageh School, Al Kufery School, and a Health Center. Lawder Hospital's catchment area includes over 100,000 people both from Lawder and neighbouring Mudiyah District. As of the end of June 2013 the repairs were 75% complete with an estimated completion date of 7 July, 2013.

Indicator 1.1: Number of the community water and sanitation maintenance projects implemented			
	Baseline:	Actual to Date:	Target:
Number of Projects	0	4	5
Indicator 1.2: Number and percent of household water supplies with 0% coliform bacteria			
	Baseline:	Actual to Date:	Target:
Number Tested:	0	0	0
Indicator 1.3: Average water usage of target population in liters per person per day prior to and after intervention			
	Baseline:	Actual to Date:	Target:
Average Water Use:	27 L per person per day; includes all uses	To be measured September 2013	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:	Actual to Date:	Target:
Number Tested	0	To be measured September 2013	10%



Photo: Washroom in Al Rageh School before repairs

In addition, currently two schools and one health center in Lawder district are under repair. The Al Rageh School serves 650 students and the Alkufery School serves 314 students. All three projects were 50% complete as of 30 June 2013. Completion of the projects will be reached by end of July 2013. Mercy Corps also conducted follow up visits to projects completed in prior quarters to ensure they were still functioning properly. All of the projects continue to function properly and the beneficiaries remain thankful for Mercy Corps help. Mercy Corps has identified additional projects to complete during the NCE.

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 hygiene promotion campaign in market centers, public institutions and schools	No progress on this activity during the period	Hygiene campaign to continue in Abyan through September 2013.

Hygiene Training Attendees by Sex and Age

Age:	Females:	Males:
0-14	189	174
15-24	36	1
25-49	306	0
60+	5	0
Total:	536	175

In total since the beginning of the grant 711 people have received training on hygiene, household sanitation and water storage. During the past quarter there were not any hygiene trainings held for several reasons: female staff were not able to access Abyan because of security issues, once security improved schools were off on summer holidays and travel to areas that had not

been covered by other agencies was not permitted by the female staff's families due to the long distance. The restrictive culture around women in Yemen limits the cultural acceptability of travel especially in places that are insecure and far from the family.

Due to the fact that women in Yemeni society are responsible for most of the hygiene tasks, Mercy Corps chose to have them as one of our target groups, plus they can better teach children proper hygiene practices. In total 485 women and children were involved in the trainings. Breakdown of ages is included in the chart above. 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 were given to the women and children. Large posters were secured to the walls in community places such as schools to make sure the message reach everyone in the community.

Indicator 2.1: Percent of target population demonstrating good hand washing practices

Practice:	Baseline:	Actual to date:	Target:
Wash hands before cooking	90%	To be measured September 2013	95%
Wash hands before eating	88%	To be measured September 2013	95%
Wash hands after using latrine	30%	To be measured September 2013	60%

Indicator 2.2: Percent of target population demonstrating correct water usage and storage

Practice:	Baseline:	Actual to Date:	Target:
Storage containers have lids	84%	To be measured September 2013	90%
Treat water before drinking	5%	To be measured September 2013	10%

Indicator 2.3: Number and percent of clean water points functioning three months after completion

	Baseline:	Actual to Date:	Target:
Clean water Points	0	To be measured September 2013	4

Indicator 2.2: Currently only 5% of people in the baseline survey treat their water before drinking taking this to 10% would double this number. While Mercy Corps is teaching them about treating their water these are very poor communities with limited access to the resources needed to treat their water. Since they are not provided with these supplies Mercy Corps is focusing on the knowledge end and teaching them about keeping their water storage containers clean and safe, which is something they can do with the resources they have.

Objective 3:

<i>Objective 3: Provide non-food item (NFI) and hygiene kits to current IDP caseload, newly arriving IDPs, and pre-position returnee kits</i>		
Major Activities This Quarter:	Progress During This Reporting Period:	Expected Completion Date:
Distribute Kits to identified IDP/returnee families according to distribution plan	This quarter 284 hygiene and NFI kits were distributed to families in Lahj (please see details in table below)	This activity is completed
Distribute consumable materials	Consumable materials were distributed to 19,000 families in Zinjibar, Ja'ar and Abyan	This activity is completed
Post distribution Survey of 400 families in Southern Abyan	Surveyors s collected over 400 surveys and data has been analyzed	This activity is completed

Mercy Corps distributed 284 NFI and hygiene kits to beneficiaries in Lahj between April 1, 2013 and June 30, 2013. The Executive Unit gave Mercy Corps special permission to distribute the remaining items in Lahj to host communities since they had stopped distributions in Abyan. Mercy Corps staff directly distributed the items to the families in two villages.

Indicator 3.1: Total number of NFIs distributed by type				
	Hygiene Kits:		NFI Kits:	
Total Distributed this Quarter:	284		284	
Total Distributed to date:	8,254		8,254	
Target Number:	8,000		8,000	
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:	41,483		41,483	
Breakdown by Age, Gender for Distributions Quarter 2, 3 and 4:				
	Quarter 2:	Quarter 3:	Quarter 4:	Total:
Number of Kits Distributed:	1,744	6,170	284	8,254
Number of Individuals Benefiting:	7,541	31,329	1,320	41,483
Number of Males	2,699*	15,559**	***	18,258
Number of Females	2,686*	15,637**	***	18,323
*Gender Data was only collected for participants preregistered in Lahj during Quarter 2. During distribution only family size was collected. **24 families did not answer this question *** No data available				



Photo: Families in Ja'ar City, Abyan Governorate receive consumable materials

In total since December 2012 Mercy Corps has distributed 8,254 Hygiene and 8,254 NFI kits to 8,254 families totalling 41,483 men, women and children served under this objective. The number of individuals benefitting is lower than expected because the average family size is 5 not 6 as was assumed during initial calculation. Besides providing the initial hygiene kit Mercy Corps also provided families with replenishment of consumable materials. This includes additional soap, washing powder and women's sanitary pads. Mercy Corps distributed these consumable materials to 19,000 families in Zinjibar and Ja'ar in collaboration with a local partner Nahda Makers. Mercy Corps purchased all of the materials

and used Nahda Makers to provide additional manpower and warehousing. Mercy Corps staff monitored the Nahda Makers staff to ensure beneficiary registration and distribution of materials followed protocols.

As part of the distribution of consumables Mercy Corps conducted a post distribution survey with a target of 400 families in Al Kude, Ja'ar and Zinjibar to help determine how the initial distribution process went and what happened to the items. In total, Mercy Corps collected 418 surveys from households in Abyan that had received items from one of the distributions that took place. Questions included what they did with the items, perceived quality of the items and suggestions for the distribution process in the future. 96% of people indicated they had kept their items and were using them in the house. The remaining 4% of people had sold part of the items but were using some in their houses. The most common reason given for why they sold some items was that they needed money. This theme of needing additional income was carried through the answer to "*Any suggestions on how Mercy Corps can improve its support to your community?*" where the majority of answers centered on assisting the economic recovery of the area.

Challenges:

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 from on-going issues with AQAP and the local authorities. Mercy Corps has overcome this by constantly networking with people in Abyan and collecting their assessment of the security situation. Using this technique Mercy Corps has been able to maintain access to difficult areas such as Lawder. Aden governorate continued to see disturbances, which interfered with program activities. The Civil Disobedience campaign launched by Al Hiraak in March 2013 continued through part of the quarter limiting activities on Saturdays and Wednesdays. Another challenge that was new this past quarter was the distance between the program area and the main office in Aden. The trip is 2.5 hours each way making it hard for staff to oversee projects on a daily basis. Lawder City saw an influx of IDPs and also saw fighting during the conflict. Because of this several schools, health clinics and the local hospital saw increased burden and breakdown of WASH facilities. Mercy Corps staff solved the distance issue by staying overnight in Lawder before travelling back to Aden. The local community leaders were very helpful and thankful for Mercy Corps assistance and provided any assistance our staff needed during their stay.

Finally, the logistics of distributing 19,000 sets of consumable items throughout southern Abyan was a challenge. To solve this Mercy Corps partnered with a local NGO Nahda Makers. Nahda Makers provided logistical support to the Mercy Corps team including warehousing space and additional staff to register beneficiaries. Mercy Corps provided the consumable items, training on how to register beneficiaries and monitoring during the process.