

# **SOMALIA LIVELIHOODS SUPPORT (SOLIS I and II)**

## **FINAL PROJECT REPORT**

**June 3, 2010 - November 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**

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## **FINAL PROGRAM REPORT**

**REPORTING PERIOD:** June 3, 2010- November 30, 2012 (total grant period)

### **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:** February 28, 2013

**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:**

The Somalia Livelihoods Support (SOLIS) project was implemented in two phases of 12 and 17 months respectively, ending in November 2012. It started during the end of the rainy season in 2010, continued through the drought and subsequent famine of 2011 (the worst drought to hit Somalia in 60 years) and ended at a time of sporadic rain in 2012. The program goal was to save human lives and reduce suffering by strengthening the livelihoods of drought, flood and conflict-affected families in Somalia. Due to increasing insecurity in the south, the project was modified in the second quarter, and was exclusively implemented in the northwest of the country (Somaliland), where there was relative calm and security. The project activities funded by USAID/OFDA in both phases were in Sanaag, Togdheer and Sool regions of Somaliland.

The first phase targeted villages in Sanaag and Togdheer regions, with a total reach of 12 villages and 21,080 people, including 1,400 IDPs in camps around Burco. The second phase of the project commenced in July 2011 with an initial duration of 12 months, ending in June 2012. However, due to the delayed start of the project, the phase was awarded a five month no-cost extension ending on November 30, 2012. In this phase, the funds supported a scale-up of activities in the two sectors targeted in the first phase. The phase targeted an estimated 27,250 people from Sanaag, Togdheer and Sool regions of Somaliland.

Overall, a total of 2,840 IDPs benefited from agriculture training and support, producing kitchen gardens and sack gardens. 67 water sources were rehabilitated under this program, providing more than 2.5 million gallons of additional storage capacity in 39 reservoirs, as well as repairing 28 shallow wells. This has enabled a doubling of average water consumption in the affected communities. Adoption of improved hygiene practices is also evident, after formation of sanitation committees, and community as well as classroom promotion of hand-washing, water

storage and sanitation practices. In summary, by providing livelihood diversification training, increasing water supply, and improving overall hygiene practices, WCDO has made progress on the goal of saving lives and reducing human suffering, and has built a platform for continued programming around water supply, improved environmental practices, and disaster risk reduction for pastoral communities.

## **KEY SECTOR-BASED ACHIEVEMENTS**

### **Sector: Agriculture and Food Security**

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

#### ***Subsector: Seed Systems and Agricultural Inputs***

415 beneficiaries were trained and supported in agriculture, by means of sack, kitchen and small gardens. 175 of these were supported in Phase 1 with sack and kitchen gardens and grew onions, kale, spinach, carrots, okra, cabbage, and tomatoes. They tried to continue their own small gardens but were unable to continue due to the drought and water stress in the area. The sack gardens were not repeated as they were a new concept and proved not to be acceptable to people.

In Phase 2 larger communal gardens were selected. 8 farmers' groups of 30 members each were trained and supported with tools and seeds to engage in crop farming, particularly vegetables such as cabbage, tomatoes, carrots, beetroots and onions among others. Out of the 240 members who were supported in this activity, 22 of them, all in Sanaag, took up the practice and are now growing tomatoes, cabbages, coriander and carrots for their household use and selling the surplus in the village market to get money for other households needs.

The majority of the people selected in this program were IDP's in and around Burao who have been displaced as a result of conflict or drought. Settling around the town means they have limited access to land of any size and rely on the local administration's good will. Lack of regular water also made sustainable farming hard and future beneficiaries have been targeted closer to sites where there are permanent sources of water.

### **Sector: Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)**

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

The sector worked with 38,000 persons from 24 different villages across Sanaag and Togdheer in the two phases.

#### ***Subsector: Water Supply***

- **Community water sources:** Initially, shallow well rehabilitation had been planned around Jilib in Middle Juba. However as humanitarian access in this area was increasingly restricted due to heavy presence and activity of Al Shabaab, meeting with the proposed local partner (FORAD) was difficult. Subsequent discussions with USAID/OFDA enabled World Concern to move all programming activities into Somaliland.

In the water supply subsector, 31 berkads (subsurface water tanks) of assorted capacities were rehabilitated, serving communities in 22 villages, 11 of which were in Sanaag, 6 in Sool and 5 of the villages were in Togdheer (see Appendix 2). All the berkads (sub-surface water tanks) captured water during the September 2012 rains and in the previous September's rains. Both phases of the project were able to actively involve the community in the work, and the communities gladly undertook the manual excavation necessary. This not only reduced the cost of construction, but also increased ownership and therefore sustainability prospects of the new water points. In keeping with local practice, all berkads were given over to private ownership. This generates income for that individual and more importantly ensures they are maintained and continue functioning. Ownership of berkads was made in consultation with the village elders and water committees. The success of one berkad owner is highlighted below.

- A total of 28 shallow wells in eight different villages (Appendix 2) were protected with a well head providing drainage of spillage and an animal trough for shoats which are usually left behind to provide milk for children and women left at home by men while they drive their herds to pasturelands far away from their own villages. Not all of the shallow wells in the first phase recharged fully due to the drought in July 2011, but by the following year they had all recovered their water levels. As is the local practice, all shallow wells are communally owned and water from them is free of charge.
- **Institutional Roof Catchment:** Eight institutions benefitted from roof catchments which were rehabilitated during the period under review. Each of the catchments had a 50 M<sup>3</sup> masonry tank for water collection. Seven schools and one Mother and Child Health (MCH) Center, all in Sanaag (Appendix 2), benefitted from the rehabilitation. All water catchments were filled and functioning after the rains during the first year of the project.

***Subsector: Hygiene Promotion/Behaviors***

- In Phase 1, 142 adults and 91 children were taken through Participatory Hygiene and Sanitation Transformation (PHAST) approach and Child Hygiene and Sanitation Training (CHAST) respectively.
- In Phase 2, 288 adults were taken through PHAST. Seven schools, 6 primary and 1 secondary, benefitted from the CHAST training. Thirty pupils were trained from each school and emphasis laid on the importance of hand-washing to curb water/sanitation related diseases, with a view of inculcating good hygiene practices in young children and using them as agents of change among their peers in school and in the village.
- Three mother-to-child hygiene trainings and another three food preparation demonstrations were conducted to lactating and pregnant mothers attending the village Mother and Child health (MCH) centers with a total of 60 trainees.
- Through the hygiene and sanitation committees, 1,728 households were supplied with 6-months regimens of Aqua tabs (3 months before the extension and another 3 months during the no-cost extension) for household water treatment. Hand-washing soap was supplied to the same households for the same 6-month period.

All activities within the program were implemented without any major interruption and most beneficiaries received their expected support. However, in spite of improved access to water,

water shortages still remain paramount in some parts of Somaliland and this lack of water in certain areas meant the targeted beneficiary group in SOLIS II in agriculture was unrealistic. Borehole breakdowns, low levels of rainfall, slow adoption by pastoralists to the concept of farming and lack of available land, all contributed towards this. While farming is possible in Somaliland, it needs to be carefully undertaken with communities who are both receptive to the idea and who have regular access to water all year round.

### ***Subsector: Sanitation***

- In Phase 1, 120 people in 10 villages were selected as members of Hygiene and Sanitation committees (HSC). In Phase 2, HSC were formed in each of the 24 villages targeted and trained for 3 days on PHAST. Each committee constituted of 12 members with at least three women included. 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 HSCs were supplied with sanitation tools to assist them in organizing and executing village clean-up campaigns in their villages.
- In phase 1 25 garbage pits were dug in 5 villages. These pits were located so that each serves more than a single household. Therefore the total number of households being served by pits is estimated at 500.
- No community management structure existed prior to this project, so the formation of the HSCs represented a cultural change, especially the inclusion of women in these groups. Benefits of these have been realized as the project continues and have had far-reaching impacts across personal hygiene; the collection, handling, and storage of water; and the management of community waste. From the baseline to the final evaluation, incidences of hand washing, after latrine use, had risen by 59% and, after handling children's faeces, had risen by 16%. The percentage of households demonstrating correct water usage and storage increased by 6% from the baseline to the final evaluation.

## INDICATOR ACHIEVEMENT MATRIX

**Program Goal: Strengthening the livelihoods of the drought, flood and conflict-affected population of Somalia**

**Objective 1: To improve household food supply and livelihoods for target communities**

**Indicator** **Cumulative Results July 2010-Nov 2012**

**Sub-sector: Agriculture and Food Security**

<b>Indicator 1:</b> Increase in number of months of food self-sufficiency due to distributed seed systems/agricultural inputs for beneficiary families <b>(Target, Phase 1: 6 months Phase 2: 2 months)</b>	The initial target was not feasible, and was readjusted for the second phase. The increase in food self-sufficiency was calculated at <b>2.5 months</b> over the life of project.
<b>Indicator 2:</b> Number of people benefiting from seed systems/agricultural inputs <b>(Target, Phase 1: 680 Phase 2: 8,250 Total, Phase 1 + Phase 2: 8,930)</b>	<b>2,840</b> persons benefitted from basic farm implements given to the household heads. The second phase indicator intended to count those educated through the demonstration gardens, but attempts to enumerate were unsuccessful.
<b>Indicator 3:</b> Number of people trained <b>(Target: 85)</b>	<b>415</b> beneficiaries were trained on kitchen gardening skills including land preparation, local methods on pest control, post-harvesting skills and vegetable food preparation (as some of the vegetables were new to them.)

**Objective 2: To improve access to safe water supply for human and livestock consumption and adequate sanitation facilities to promote hygiene practices.**

**Sub-sector: Hygiene Promotion/Behaviors**

<b>Indicator 1:</b> Percentage of target population demonstrating good hand washing practices <b>(Target: Phase 1 20% improvement on baseline, Phase 2: 60% of beneficiaries)</b>	The final evaluation indicated that 81% of the population use soap and water to wash, an increase of 23% from the baseline.
<b>Indicator 2:</b> Percentage of target population demonstrating correct water usage and storage <b>(Target: Phase 1 20% improvement on baseline, Phase 2 60% of beneficiaries)</b>	63% of targeted population store their water in clean and covered containers, an increase of 31% from the baseline
<b>Indicator 3:</b> Number and percent of clean water points functioning three months after completion <b>(Target: 23+27 = 50, 75%)</b>	A total of 67 water points were rehabilitated and 100% are functioning 3 months after completion.
<b>Indicator 4 (Phase 1 only):</b> Number of household waste management pits dug out <b>(Target: 20)</b>	A total of 25 garbage pits were dug during the project period. The total number of households being served by the pits is estimated at 500.
<b>Indicator 5 (Phase 2 only):</b> Percent increase in soap sales <b>(Target: 5%)</b>	Overall, a 5.9% increase in soap sales was reported.

<b>Sub-sector: Water supply</b>	
<b>Indicator 1:</b> Average water usage of target population in liters per person per day prior to and after interventions <b>(Target: Phase 1 - 6 liters/person/day, Phase 2 - 4 liters/person/day)</b>	The initial baseline indicated a water usage of 2.68 liters per person per day. After rehabilitation of 67 water points, the final evaluation revealed a usage of 5.71 liters per person per day.
<b>Indicator 2:</b> Number and percent of water points with measurable chlorine residual exceeding 0.2 mg/L <b>(Target: 51 households or 90% of sampled households from 36 water points)</b>	97% (165 out 170) of sampled households indicated to have more than 0.2mg/l of Free Residual chlorine
<b>Indicator 3 (Phase 1 only):</b> Number and percentage of household water supplies with 0 coliforms bacteria per 100 ml. Target: 23	Fecal coliform testing was not available, but chlorine residual was tested (see indicator above).
<b>Indicator 4 (Phase 1 only):</b> Number of protected water points constructed <b>(Target: 26)</b>	Overall 67 protected water points were constructed or rehabilitated, however the target for phase 1 was also exceeded.
<b>Indicator 5 (Phase 2 only):</b> Number and percent of water committee members retaining water management knowledge two months after training <b>(Target: 80% of members)</b>	Monitoring done in September 2012 indicates that 81.7% of members could recall important operation and maintenance points and leadership skills
<b>Sub-sector: Sanitation (Phase 1 only)</b>	
<b>Indicator 1:</b> Number and percentage of household latrines completed that are clean and in use in compliance with Sphere standards <b>(Target: 30)</b>	This indicator was removed during a modification of the proposal.
<b>Indicator 1:</b> Number and percent of household hand-washing facilities completed and in use Target: 300 (30% of the 54,840)	300 households were issued with a hand washing set that includes a kettle and soap, percentage of consistent use was not measured
<b>Indicator 2:</b> Number and percent of households disposing of solid waste appropriately <b>Target: 20 (100%)</b>	Overall 20 waste pits were dug in phase 1. The final evaluation revealed that 22% of HH's had pits for disposal of solid waste.

## HUMAN INTEREST STORY

Hinda Yassin is a 35-year-old widow from Balanbaal, in Togdheer, with 7 children to care for. She spends her days with her children tending goats, moving around as they graze. At night she returns to a temporary shelter she calls home. The goats mostly belong to her brother-in-law, but a few are hers and when she needs money for food or medicine for the children, she sells one of them. The only support her extended family gives to her is provision of free water to her animals, otherwise she is alone. The children, ages 4-15 stay with her, none of them goes to school.



She used to live in Balanbaal with her husband, who was over 30 years older than her. Before he died, he had spent 18 months digging a pit for a berkad. Unfortunately, the pit was only 95% complete before he died; neither had he left any plans in place to complete the necessary construction. After his death, as is customary, she became the wife of her husband's brother who already has a wife and children of his own. Hinda felt the best use for her would be to tend his goats outside of the village. Since that time she has been doing that.



World Concern and the elders of Balanbaal met and discussed her plight. The village elders talked with her and agreed that her incomplete berkad could be completed as a community berkad for which she would be the caretaker. In this way, she would get free water for her children and animals, and she could sell some of the water to maintain it and buy supplies for her family.

The berkad was completed in June, 2012 and received water during the September rains. According to Hinda, about 750 barrels (about 150,000 Litres) of water were collected in the berkad, which she said was very helpful to her family and the village at large. This being the first rain since the rehabilitation, she informed us that she shared the water free of charge with others in the village, as this would bring them closer to embrace it as a community structure, since she needed their help in caring and maintaining it going forward. Hinda expressed happiness and appreciation to all that supported the rehab because she has some water to help her and the children for drinking and washing. The rains that are expected in the next year to her are a source of hope because this, she says, will fill the berkad and offer her opportunity to sell the surplus. Now she can afford other household items and hopes to be able to construct a house in the village and move from the grazing lands back to the village.



## APPENDIX 1: ADDITIONAL PHOTOS



*Community members attending PHAST training at Balanbaal-Togdheer*



*A World Concern rehabilitated berkad at Turr B in Sanaag*



*CHAST training in progress at Sincarro Primary School*



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

## APPENDIX 2

<b>Waterpoints Constructed or Rehabilitated by SOLIS Project</b>				
<b>Region</b>	<b>Village</b>	<b>Berkad</b>	<b>Shallow Wells</b>	<b>Rainwater Catchments</b>
<b>Sanaag</b>	Ceel Ade	3	3	1
	Fadigaab	1	1	1
	Sinnaro	2	0	1
	Garaadag	2	1	2
	Faragul	1	7	0
	Lasdomare	2	0	1
	Dhanano	0	8	0
	Balaanbaal	1	0	1
	Doomo	1	0	0
	Huluul	1	0	1
	Sigodheer	0	4	0
	Sabawanaag	0	2	0
	Iibaax	1	0	0
	Kalbooca	1	0	0
<b>Sool</b>	Tuur A	2	0	0
	Tuur B	2	0	0
	Gawsaweyne	2	0	0
	Qoridhere	1	2	0
	Shiisha	1	0	0
	Ali Hersi	1	0	0
<b>Togdheer</b>	Duruqsi	1	0	0
	Riyo-xidho	1	0	0
	Balanbaal	2	0	0
	Warcibraan	1	0	0
	Heere	1	0	0
		<b>31</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>8</b>