

Final Report of South Central Emergency Response Program (SCERP)

		
Kismayu fish/meat market- before rehabilitation	During rehabilitation	After rehabilitation

COUNTRY CONTACT	HEADQUARTERS CONTACT	PROJECT SUMMARY										
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<u>Table of Contents</u>	<u>Pages</u>
Executive Summary	2
Program Overview.....	2
1.0 Economic Recovery and Market Systems	3
1.1 Market System Rehabilitation.....	3
1.1.1 Rehabilitation of Irrigation Canals.....	3
1.1.2 Rehabilitation of River Embankments.....	3
1.1.3 Rehabilitation of Markets.....	4
1.1.4 Rehabilitation of Market Feeder Roads.....	5
1.2 New Livelihoods Development.....	5
1.2.1 Skills Trainings.....	5
1.2.2 Micro Business Start Ups.....	6
1.2.3 Business Fairs.....	6
1.3 Temporary Employment.....	6
2.0 Protection and Sub-Sector 2.1.....	7
2.1 Conduct GBV Training.....	7
2.2 Community Sensitization on GBV & Child Protection.....	7
2.3 GBV Provision of Dignity Kit and Nutritional Support for GBV Survivors.....	7
Sub-Sector 2.2: Child Protection	
2.2.1: Conduct child protection trainings.....	8
4.0 Monitoring and Evaluation.....	8
5.0 Coordination.....	8
6.0 Challenges and Conclusions	8

ACRONYMS

DP	Internally Displaced People
ERMS	Economic Recovery and Market Systems
CfW	Cash for Work
SCAPE	South-Central and Puntland Somalia Emergency Response Program
VRC	Village Relieve Committee
GBV	Gender Based Violence

Executive Summary

SCERP accomplished its planned activities in South Central Somalia during the program implementation despite security challenges. The program activity implementations were timely and well-coordinated with the donor, the clusters, and partners and complimented Mercy Corps' other humanitarian response programs in Somalia.

The program engaged a total of 2,823 beneficiaries through Cash for Work (CfW) to rehabilitate ten km of irrigation canals, six feeder roads, and three markets in Lower and Middle Shabelle and Lower Juba. A total of USD 331,626 cash transfers to 2,823 households were advanced during the Cash for Work project. Mercy Corps utilizes CfW approaches to improve the purchasing power of the individual household's access to basic needs and to inject cash into the local economy. Respective Village Relief Committees (VRC), with the support of Mercy Corps program staff, came up with beneficiary selection criteria to facilitate the identification of individuals to take part in Cash for Work activities, with each individual representing a household. Women and youth were given priority due to their more challenging economic conditions.

The security situation in the South Central region was generally calm during the implementation period, with infrequent bombings and attacks by Al-Shabaab in Mogadishu, Kismayu and Lower/Middle Shabelle districts. Inter/intra clan conflicts were located mainly in Lower/Middle Shabelle and Juba. In addition, the political instability following the change of prime minister has negatively affected political confidence. Nevertheless, the Mercy Corps program implementation team endured these setbacks and successfully implemented the targeted SCERP program activities.

Program Overview

Through USAID/OFDA funding, Mercy Corps Somalia has been implementing emergency programming for the last year with the aim of supporting both host communities and IDP camps ability to respond and cope with both man-made and natural disasters. Mercy Corps South Central and Emergency Response Program (SCERP) targeted communities and IDPs living in Mogadishu, Lower Juba, and Middle and Lower Shabelle in Southern Somalia, and the Galgadud and Mudug regions.

The program had two sectors to address multi-faceted needs of the participants with emphasis on viability and sustainability of program interventions. These sectors included Economic Recovery and Market Systems (ERMS) and Protection. The program utilized a CfW approach to inject cash into the local economy and boost the purchasing power of individual households to provide for basic needs.

Sector 1: Economic Recovery and Market Systems

Sub-Sector 1.1: Market System Rehabilitation

Activity 1.1.1: Rehabilitation of Irrigation Canals

SCERP program successfully rehabilitated the targeted ten km of irrigation canals in Balcad, Jowhar, Kismayu and Afgoye districts to improve targeted farm production. The Cash for Work activity involved the digging of the canal, removal of debris and sand, and the clearing of vegetation that had grown into the canal. The rehabilitated irrigation canals supply water to small-scale farms producing vegetables and crops. Table 1 below shows the number of beneficiaries and locations of rehabilitation of irrigation canals work carried out.

Table 1: Rehabilitated Canal Information						
Beneficiaries of the Households	Female	Male	Km Rehabilitated	Village	District	Region
165	51	114	1	Jowhar	Jowhar	Middle Shabelle
165	65	100	1	Habadley	Balcad	Middle Shabelle
165	72	93	1	Marerey	Afgoye	Middle Shabelle
165	62	103	1	Bula Mamow	Jamame	Lower Juba
165	64	101	1	Gaalwar	Afgoye	Lower Shabelle
165	3	162	1	Muryale	Balcad	Middle Shabelle
165	43	122	1	Kurshale	Balcad	Middle Shabelle
165	60	105	1	Basro	Balcad	Middle Shabelle
165	57	108	1	Kalundi	Jowhar	Middle Shabelle
165	63	102	1	Balbaaley	Afgoye	Lower Shabelle
Total: 1650	540	1110	10	10	10	3

Activity 1.1.2: Rehabilitation of River Embankments

SCERP program also managed to successfully rehabilitate the targeted 3.6 km of river embankments in Middle and Lower Shabelle region districts that experienced severe flooding during the program implementation period. A total of 495 CfW laborers were temporarily employed for 20 days to rehabilitate/construct river embankments by stacking sand bags on the riverbanks to prevent further flooding into the farms and homes of the riverine communities. The embankment ridges were constructed to 1.5m height and base width of 1.5m to avert loss of productive assets and ensure disaster risk reduction mechanisms (DRR) to save many hectares of land from flooding and allowing continuous cropping in the targeted districts. Riverine communities experienced recurring natural disasters that devastated their productive assets and washed away their homes over the years. The rehabilitated embankments continue to deter the effects of flooding. Table 2 below shows the number of beneficiaries and locations of rehabilitation of embankments work carried out.

Table 2: Rehabilitated Embankment Information						
Beneficiaries of the Households	Female	Male	Km Rehabilitated	Village	District	Region
165	95	70	1.2	Moyko	Jowhar	Middle Shabelle
165	60	105	1.2	Bararey	Afgooye	Lower Shabelle
165	95	70	1.2	Bayahow	Jowhar	Middle Shabelle
Total: 495	250	245	3.6	3	3	2

Activity 1.1.3: Rehabilitation of Markets

SCERP rehabilitated three markets in South Central Somalia: in Jazeera, Balcad and Kismayu districts Lower/Middle Shabelle and Lower Juba regions respectively. The rehabilitation/construction of these markets have provided opportunities for fishermen, farmers, milk vendors and other community traders to market their products. The centralized markets are likely to attract businessmen and women from within and outside the region and provide a better marketing potential for the local traders and producers. 45 people have directly benefited through Cash for Work from the rehabilitation of these three communal markets. This will ensure rural communities have access to markets where farmers and vendors can obtain better prices for their merchandise and sustain their livelihoods. For instance, the Jazeera fish market traders initially lacked proper structure where they could display and sell fresh fish for buyers mainly from Mogadishu town (24 km distance). With the involvement of Mercy Corps and contribution from the local community, the market structure has been transformed to a standard fish market that attracts customers from nearby centers and towns. The CfW beneficiaries who participated in the market rehabilitation activities in these three locations earned USD 100 per worker for 15 days work, which directly contributed to the local economy. Mercy Corps could not undertake the rehabilitation of the remaining three target markets in Mogadishu, Galkacyo and Jowhar due to concerns over ownership and long-term sustainability. Table 3 below shows the number of beneficiaries and locations of rehabilitation of market work carried out.

Table 3: Rehabilitated Market Information						
Beneficiaries of the Households	Female	Male	Rehabilitated Market	Village	District	Region
15	0	15	Jazeera fish	Jazeera	Afgoye	Lower Shabelle
15	0	15	Hawadley	Hawadley	Balcad	Lower Shabelle
15	0	15	Kismayu fish/meat	Alanley	Kismayu	Lower Juba
Total: 45	0	45	3	3	2	2
* Females were not willing to take part in these rehabilitation due to heavy manual work involved						

Activity 1.1.4: Rehabilitation of Market Feeder Roads

Sixty kilometers of market access feeder roads (six roads, each ten km) were cleared during the 12 months SCERP program period in Mudug, Galgadud, Lower Juba, and Lower and Middle Shabelle regions to improve movement and accessibility of goods to main villages and town center markets. The rehabilitated roads are of high importance as they connect various villages while easing transportation of agricultural and livestock products from farms and rural areas. 630 CfW beneficiaries (215 female and 415 male) participated in the road clearance. The two roads in Abudwak and Galkacyo district of Galgadud & Mudug Region respectively are main routes for pastoralists delivering milk, meat, and livestock to the main markets. Those in Kismayu, Afgoye and Jowhar required clearing of bushes to improve access between local farms and trade and market centers. The CfW injection of cash through this rehabilitation activity also increased local cash flow and had positive effect on the local economy and markets. Table 4 below shows the number of beneficiaries and rehabilitation of feeder/access roads work carried out.

Table 4: Rehabilitated Feeder/Access Road Information					
No. of direct beneficiaries	Female	Male	Village	District	Region
105	1	104	Labojidley	Abudwak	Galgadud
105	1	104	Haaro	Galkacyo	Mudug
105	30	75	Marerey	Afgoye	M.Shabelle
105	34	71	Raqayle	Jowhar	M.Shabelle
105	20	85	Abudwak	Abudwak	Galgadud
105	15	90	Qandal	Kismayu	Lower Juba
Total: 630	101	529	6	5	4

Sub-sector 1.2: New Livelihoods Development

Activity 1.2.1: Skills Trainings

SCERP supported 40 youth and women (25 F & 15 M) in Mogadishu, Kismayu and Galakcyo in 30-day laundry soap production skill training. The trainees were then formed into cooperative groups of eight persons each. Every cooperative group was then supported with cash grants worth \$500 and startup materials worth similar amounts. Both the trainees and the communities (IDPs and host) considered the soap production skill training as very relevant since the raw materials were locally available thereby making the final product easily affordable to large, poor populations. The new skills also enabled the beneficiary youths/women earn income to support themselves and their family, thereby strengthened the local economies.

Activity 1.2.2: Micro Business Start Ups

During the year long program period, ten existing groups established during the previous SCAPE program and five newly established SCERP cooperative groups were supported and provided with cash business start-ups of \$1,500. The grant payments were done in two installments of \$1000 and \$500 over the program implementation, contingent upon progress that was monitored by the program team. The ten cooperative groups consisted of 64 IDP members (58 female and 6 male) selected from IDP camps in Mogadishu, Banadir region engaged in tailoring, henna painting/tie and dye, and carpentry. The five cooperative groups established under SCERP focused on the laundry soap production. Both SCAPE and SCERP skill trainings and cooperative group beneficiaries consisted of between 40% and 60% IDPs in all three targeted districts of Mogadishu, Galkacyo and Kismayu.

Activity 1.2.3: Business Fairs

SCERP conducted three business fairs on three consecutive days in Gahayr IDP Settlement of Hodan district in Banadir region, Mogadishu to promote the three newly established Israa, October and Hubane Soap Producing Cooperative Groups in Mogadishu. These cooperative groups were formed following the successful completion of the soap making skill training. The cooperative groups displayed their products and services to the public by selling at affordable prices and giving free soap to attendees. There was also a promotional drama on soap making and related business played by a group of four prominent entertainers in the community.

Sub-Sector 1.3: Temporary Employment

During implementation, the program employed 2,823 people through CfW activities such as rehabilitation of markets, irrigation canals, river embankments, and feeder road clearance. This is slightly lower than the program cumulative target of 2,836 persons. The average rate received by each CfW beneficiary was USD 105 for 15-20 working days.

More than 2,000 CfW tools comprised of wheelbarrows, shovels, pick axes, hoes, rakes, traditional axes, hammers and crow bars distributed for rehabilitation work were later handed over to respective VRCs after completion of work. The tools will be for future community use in similar activities, thus enhancing a sense of community ownership and sustainability of the program activities.

Sector 2.0: Protection

Sub-Sector 2.1: Prevention and Response to Gender Based Violence

Activity 2.1.1: Conducting GBV Trainings

The SCERP program conducted a total of 20 GBV trainings for 453 (319 female and 134 male) community members, including elders, women, youth, religious leaders and police. Participants were provided basic knowledge on forms of GBV, consequences, prevention and response of GBV, identification and reporting of GBV/SGBV. The trained community members were tasked with carrying out further sensitization and awareness campaigns in the camps to improve people's awareness on GBV reporting among the community and survivors.

Activity 2.1.2: Community Sensitization on GBV and Child Protection

SCERP conducted 90 GBV/Child protection awareness and sensitization sessions for 1,868 (1,145 female and 723 male) participants from various IDP camps in Mogadishu, Galkacyo, Kismayu and Abudwak districts. These sessions provided communities with a better understanding of GBV prevention and response, sexual exploitation and abuse, and domestic violence, as well as how to carry out the community sensitization on GBV and Child Protection. During the community sensitization sessions, Mercy Corps distributed 500 rape whistles to the female participants for use during any forced violence against women by alerting and seeking help/rescue from the neighbors and public.

Activity 2.1.3: Provision of Dignity Kits and Nutritional Support for GBV Survivors

During the program implementation period, SCERP provided 25 dignity kits and nutritional support for 20 IDP GBV survivors, identified by the existing GBV/Child Protection Support Groups in our IDP areas of operation in Mogadishu, Kismayu and Galkayu. GBV survivors lived in 19 different camps located in the different IDP settlements in Mogadishu.

The dignity kits consisted of three dresses (dirac), three shawls (garbasar), nine pieces of sanitary cloth, six panties (different sizes), three pieces of bar soap (250 g), three packets powder soap (100 g), three petticoats (gorgorat) and three head scarves (shash). The nutritional support contained: sugar (5 kg), rice (5 kg), oil (3 liters), powdered milk (1¼ kg) and powder soap (10 packets). The program team supported and strengthened the protection activities especially in the IDP settlements despite the difficult conditions and cultural barriers that surrounded case identification and awareness. The identified GBV survivors were further supported to get clinical management and psychosocial support from identified medical providers Hawatako in Mogadishu and Peace Hospital in Kismayu.

Sub-Sector 2.2: Child Protection

Activity 2.2.1: Conducting child protection training

The SCERP conducted a total of 20 child protection trainings for 440 community members (267 female and 173 male), including sheikhs, elders and women/youth

group representatives. They were trained on child protection and advocacy on prevention and response to violence against children, basic psycho-social support and counseling to children, child friendly spaces, and support to children with disabilities. These trainees formed different committees for the protection of neglected children at the IDP camp settings. The trained committees were tasked to further carry out awareness on the importance of protecting children from abuse and exploitation.

Table 5: Sub-Sector: Gender-based Violence Community Sensitization on GBV/ Child Protection and Trainings on Prevention and Response

Name and Number of Activities	Number of Female and Male Participating	
90 Community Sensitizations on GBV/ Child Protection	1,145 Female	723 Male
20 GBV Trainings	319 Female	134 Male
20 Child Protection Trainings	267 Female	173 Male

4. Monitoring and Evaluation

The program team produced activity monitoring reports (AMRs) for every completed activity. Further, the program team conducted field and need assessments before the start of every activity in each quarter to avoid duplication of roles with other humanitarian actors in the same target area. In effort to ensure high quality CfW program activities, targeted literate youth were employed as supervisors to support daily monitoring of activities. Mercy Corps M & E team conducted verification of completed activities to ensure long-term sustainability.

5. Coordination

The program team operated closely with other humanitarian actors in the program implementation areas, as well as local administrations in all villages before undertaking activities. Project outcome and data were always shared with food security and protection clusters through the 4W matrix. The team also participated in sector and cluster meetings to address need gaps of the beneficiaries, challenges and cluster reporting, ensuring quality delivery of work regarding humanitarian interventions carried out by all cluster members.

6. Challenges/Conclusions

Insecurity due to Al-Shabaab and other conflicts in the program implementation area was the major challenge. Program activities, especially in Mogadishu, Lower Shabelle and Lower Juba, were delayed several times due to car bombings, reported cases of gun fighting or even assassinations. Nevertheless Mercy Corps managed to implement the SCERP successfully and within the planned framework.