



QUARTERLY REPORT

Project Name: SOMALIA TOWARDS REACHING RESILIENCE (STORRE) PROJECT

Country: Somalia

Agreement Number: AID-OFDA-A-14-00032

Reporting Period: April 1 – June 30 2015

OVERVIEW

1. Background

CARE is targeting communities in Badhan and Erigavo, two districts in Northern Somalia, where conflict and insecurity, chronic drought, and weak governance and natural resource management have deteriorated livelihoods and increased vulnerability to shocks and stresses, especially among women. Given the high, recurrent levels of vulnerability in Somalia, a focus on building household and community resilience is needed if vulnerability is to be reduced over time. CARE's approach acknowledges that shocks and stresses are a likely occurrence, and will work with the communities themselves to map and identify the negative coping strategies which have a long-term detrimental effect on families. CARE's experience in Somalia and globally also suggests that inequitable distribution of rights, resources, and power is strongly influenced by gender. The proposed approach therefore acknowledges that gender is a critical factor in understanding vulnerability - and thus resilience - and the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women is a proven strategy to overcome poverty. The project will contribute to resilience-building by focusing on three key areas. First, the project will facilitate the identification of shocks, stresses and changes that are impacting women's and men's ability to secure their basic needs, and the development of community-owned action plans to address areas where communities can be empowered to make a positive difference in their own resilience at the household or community level. Second, the project will strengthen the asset base on which women's and men's livelihoods rely. A specific focus will be on asset protection and productivity during dry periods, and asset provision only where recovery measures are needed before building a pathway towards resilience, and regeneration of degraded areas recognizing the role of healthy ecosystems in securing communities' resilience. Finally, to ensure long-term resilience building beyond the project timeframe, the project will also focus on strengthening local governance structures and building local capacity to understand and effectively manage risks and changes to enable resilience. In this respect community level monitoring of, and learning about, risks and changes over time is considered a resilience-building strategy in and of itself, but also provides a platform for building responsible and informed governance structures to effectively support communities to manage risks and changes long term.

Goal: Equitably increase resilience of women and men in 4240 households in 53 villages, by increasing understanding of and capacity to manage household to landscape level risks and changes that undermine resilience, through livelihoods support, equitable and effective resource management, and strengthened local governance systems.

Objective 1: Increase capacity of households and communities to adapt to recurrent shocks.

Results: Gender-inclusive, community-led disaster risk management and climate change adaptation plans are in place based on capacities and vulnerabilities assessments; Enabling governance environment is strengthened at community and district levels; and Community based Disaster Risk Management (CBDRM) and safety net systems are strengthened and linked.

Objective 2: Build up the ecological, social and economic capital of households and communities.

Results: Productivity of HHs is enhanced and strategies diversified to reduce sensitivity of incomes and production to drought to meet minimum HH needs year after year; Essential community assets are restored and protected per sustainable community plans; Health, nutrition, hygiene and pro-gender behaviours adopted by HHs to promote resilience building; and Women are empowered to develop resilient livelihoods through VSLA groups.

Objective 3: Robust learning recognized/adopted by HHs and community governance structures.

Results: Resilient behaviours recognised and adopted by HHs and community governance; and Research generated, shared and applied to adaptive project management.

Summary of key accomplishments and successes

In this reporting period, project implementation has successfully begun in the communities despite few challenges. Community mobilization and sensitization activities have been carried in all 20 USAID target communities. Stakeholder engagement workshops have been held to build consensus among the different project stakeholders. Rangeland rehabilitation work has begun in 10 project locations to rehabilitate degraded rangelands and reduce soil erosion and water run-off in the grazing areas and farmlands. The placement of the Monitoring and Evaluation Officer was completed and the selected candidate has assumed the role on 10th May 2015. Project staff have also revised the Theory of Change and Logical Framework in light of the comments from the donor and re-submitted it. CARE also managed the preparation and submission of some of the project M&E documents such as the EMMP, M&E Staffing Plan and Branding Strategy and Marking Plan. Furthermore, the Village Saving and Loan Associations (VSLAs) in 11 communities targeted by the match fund projects have received refresher trainings to run transparent and effective saving and loan operations. During this reporting period, CARE was invited by the USAID APS Program Oversight Committee in Nairobi to discuss project progress, challenges and learning. The Acting CD, Program Coordinator – Rural Women Program, STORRE Chief of Party, STORRE Monitoring & Evaluation Coordinator met with them. The meeting went well and discussions covered a wide range of issues related to achievements, challenges, coordination with other APS partners and other resilience forums/consortia, submission of M&E documents, photography and third party monitoring.

DESCRIPTION OF ACHIEVEMENTS

Community Mobilization and Sensitization

Robust community mobilization and sensitization of beneficiary communities is vital for the smooth implementation of the project and sustaining project outcomes. The project staff have visited all the 20



communities and involved the various sections of the community such as elders, village committees, women and youth in the mobilisation sessions. An average of 40 community members per community participated in these sessions. A total of 800 people (274 female and 526 male) participated in the community mobilization activities that were undertaken in the villages.

The mobilization and sensitization activity explained project objectives and activities to communities, briefly discussed their needs and priorities and other development services in the area, and orientated community members to have inclusive village committees that are concerned about their community’s problems and development needs and who are willing to serve their community voluntarily.

Stakeholder engagement workshops in Erigavo and Badhan districts

The project extended community mobilization efforts to the district level by involving district council members and relevant line ministries in the mobilization process. A two day workshop have been organized for village committees’ representatives, district council members, representatives from government line ministries (ministry of rural development and environment, ministry of livestock, ministry of social affairs and ministry of agriculture) to solicit support in project implementation and build consensus. A total of 65 people (56 male and 9 female) participated in both workshops. Participants of the stakeholder engagement workshops in both districts are shown in the table below.

Participant group	Number of participants
Village Committee members	44
District council members	16
Officials from line ministries	5
Total	65

CARE staff gave a presentation of the project objectives and activities to familiarize the participants with the project and clarify the expected outcomes. The participants have discussed and deliberated the possible roles and contributions of each stakeholder in community development and resilience building in general and in the STORRE project in particular. A summary of the discussions and deliberations on the division of roles among the stakeholders are shown in bullet point as follows.

Village Councils

- Resolving community disputes
- Umbrella organization for coordination of community development initiatives with government and non-government actors
- Lead community group for directing the implementation of the project with CARE – e.g. beneficiary selection, identification of community priorities, etc.

District Councils

- Review and endorsement/ratification of Community Action Plans (CAPs)
- Approval of the VCs and conflict resolution among VC members



- Coordinating with VCs and facilitating linkages to development/humanitarian partners

Line ministries

- Joint monitoring
- Technical advice/support in their respective areas (e.g. facilitation of Pastoralist Field School (PFS) groups, etc.)

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- Capacity building of the groups (VCs, VSLAs, PFS, etc.)
- Sharing project (relevant) information with each entity
- Implementing the project (with stakeholders) as per the project action plan and proposal

During the two day workshop, the facilitators presented a video drama demonstrating the difference between an active and collaborative VC and a corrupt and inactive VC. The video drama, which was developed with funds from USAID when CARE was implementing a peace building and governance project in Sanaag region, was acted by local famous comedian and has proven useful for orientating communities towards collective action. Most importantly, the workshop has established linkages between the VCs and DCs and with line ministries for better collaboration.

Submission of M&E documents

CARE received feedback from USAID on the project Theory of Change (TOC) and Logical Framework (LF). CARE revised both documents in light of the feedback and re-submitted it. The revision entailed re-alignment of project outcomes, addition of new outputs, dropping of few outcomes/outputs, and more explanation of the roles of the VCs, VSLAs and PMERL activities. Along with the TOC and LF, other M&E requirements have also been submitted. The list of documents submitted is:

- a) Theory of Change
- b) Logical Framework
- c) Environmental Mitigation and Monitoring Plan (EMMP)
- d) Branding Strategy and Marking Plan
- e) M&E Staffing Plan

Rangeland rehabilitation through cash for work

Rehabilitation of degraded rangelands is paramount in resilience building in pastoral and agro-pastoral communities. CARE has assessed all STORRE target sites and identified 10 key hotspots for rangeland rehabilitation.

Due to poor Gu' rains in some areas in Sanaag region, the activity largely targeted those communities affected by the situation of poor rains so that they can benefit from the cash to cope with the deteriorating food security situation. Degradation of rangelands in pastoral communities in Northern Somalia is largely caused by poor watershed management, overgrazing and reckless vehicle movements. See below pictures of degraded rangelands that are selected for rehabilitation through cash for work.



To rehabilitate the identified rangeland sites in the 10 villages, 315 beneficiaries (163 male and 152 female) have been selected and registered to participate in the rangeland rehabilitation work through cash for work. Key criteria for selecting the cash for work beneficiaries were:

- a) Divorced and widowed women headed households
- b) Households where head is unemployed/not working, with priority to households with more than 3 adolescent girls
- c) Households with less than 10 livestock where 15% of owned shoats have died due to diseases in the last 12 months
- d) Households where head and/or spouse’s major activity is selling firewood/charcoal
- e) HHs with 1 or more disabled persons
- f) Average monthly income of 15 USD or less per month

CARE is now in the process of procuring the tools and materials for the rehabilitation work and actual rehabilitation is expected to commence in the second week of July. The activity shall continue for two months (July – August) and each beneficiary household shall receive 70 USD per month. Below table shows the 10 villages where rangeland rehabilitation shall take place and number of cash for work beneficiaries in each village.

Village	No. of male beneficiaries	No. of female beneficiaries	Total no. of beneficiaries
Ardaa	13	17	30
Carmale	13	17	30
Dhoob	16	14	30
Jiidali	40	0	40
Sibaayo	18	12	30
Mindhicir	7	23	30
Goob	19	21	40
Doonyaha	13	12	25
Karin	17	13	30
Darasalaam	7	23	30
Total	163	152	315

Strengthening the operations of Village Saving and Loan Associations (VSLAs)

Traditional trainings may not help some people to learn well or may not fit well with the transfer of certain skills. On-job mentoring and one-to-one engagements can be used to consolidate skills and solve practical problems facing VSLA groups in their day to day VSLA activities and operations. CARE has provided technical backstopping to existing 47 VSLA groups in 11 communities targeted by its EU funded ‘Towards Self Reliance (TSR)’ project between April and May 2015.

887 VSLA members (645 female and 242 male) have benefitted from the mentoring and guidance sessions which was the first to be provided after 2 to 3 years of the VSLAs establishment and initial training. The technical backstopping services covered the following topics:

- a) VSLA schedule of operations (preparatory, intensive, development and maturity phases)
- b) VSLA concept and how it does not violate Islamic financing
- c) VSLA group formation and general assembly
- d) VSLA leadership/management system
- e) Development of internal regulations (by-laws) and election of the VSLA management committee.
- f) VSLA meetings (frequency, meeting minutes, etc.)
- g) Record-keeping and auditing

In this reporting period, CARE has also organised a two days training for village committees and district council members. The training aimed at familiarizing the VCs with VSLA concept and winning their support for VSLA operations. The trained covered VSLA methodological principles, implementation strategies, operational procedures, systems and structures. 15 participants (13 male and 2 female) benefitted from this training.

PARTNERSHIP AND COORDINATION

CARE is a member of the resilience consortium called Somalia Resilience Programme (SomRep) and participates in the consortium coordination meetings. CARE harmonizes implementation of STORRE activities with its SSF (Somalia Stability Fund) project which has some similar activities. SSF shares 5 target villages with STORRE. CARE also has connections with the other two agencies implementing the USAID resilience programme and looks forward to coordinating with them on technical issues as well as on learning. CARE and World Vision participated in a 'Resilience Programming' workshop facilitated by Tulane University. The objectives of the workshop:

- a) Compare and contrast resilience programming with traditional approaches to applying humanitarian and development assistance in Somalia
- b) Apply systems thinking concepts for resilience building in Somalia
- c) Apply the concepts of sequencing, layering and integrating to project areas in Somalia
- d) Discuss the learning components of the awards and map out opportunities and synergies with other projects in the zones of influence

Besides achieving the above 4 objectives, the workshop which was also attended by USAID M&E Advisor, provided platform for revisiting the Theory of Change (TOC) of both CARE and World Vision APS projects. The workshop also hosted the SomRep mid-term evaluation consultants to present key findings, recommendations and lessons learnt. This was an important learning opportunity for the STORRE project. The Somalia Towards Reaching Resilience (STORRE) Chief of Party has participated in a Food and Nutrition Security Learning event in Malawi organized by CARE USA.

Environmental compliance

The project has conducted the Initial Environmental Examination as per USAID guidelines, completed the Environmental Mitigation and Monitoring Plan (EMMP) and submitted to USAID.

Engagement with the host government/local authority

CARE has been working in the two districts and implementing a number of projects and has established good working relationship with all the communities and different government agencies in the two districts. CARE has also developed an effective collaboration with local administrations/authorities in the respective project districts. CARE has also developed Sanaag Operational Strategy, which guides its operations in the region during project implementation. Community participation and involvement forms an integral part of the project’s implementation approach. The beneficiary communities, local administration and the relevant government departments were involved in the design of the project and thus the communities feel a strong sense of ownership of the process.

CHALLENGES FACED

Key challenges encountered during the reporting period in addition to operating in an already challenging area contested by two administrations with frequent killings and revenge killings are:

Challenge	Measure taken to address the challenge
Unavailability of CVCA & PMERL technical assistance within CARE International	Explore external consultancy for the CVCA & PMERL technical assistance
Change of project locations because of community/clan disputes	Engage local authorities to find other appropriate project locations/communities
Closure of Dahabshiil Money Transfer in Kenya. The CARE Somalia HQ is in Nairobi and remits money to the Somalia field offices through Dahabshiil.	CARE has made arrangements with a cash facilitator called OOMAR to make payments to staff, vendors, suppliers and service providers. Payment processing took longer though.

As a result of the changes in the project locations, below is the final list of the 20 STORRE target locations.

Village	Population sizes (HHs)
Erigavo district	
Dhoob	80
Darasalam	100
Jiidali	250
Karin	60
Ardaa	100
Dibqarax	70



Goob	100
Doonyaha	80
Gudmo-afaafood	70
Armalle	360
Buq xayle	60
Xamaas	110
Daryale	100
Cirshiida	60
Rag-caddeeye	80
Badhan district	
Mindhicir	90
Habarshiro	120
Dawaco	100
Sibayo	100
Xiin-galool	600

MONITORING TRACKING TABLE

Award level and sector level beneficiaries reached this quarter:

AWARD LEVEL <i>(does not include repeat beneficiaries)</i>	Total number of beneficiaries (incl. IDP)	IDP Beneficiaries (only)
Cumulative Period Targeted	25,440	0
Reporting Period Reached	887	0
Cumulative Reached	1994	0

SECTOR 1: Agriculture and Food Security	Total number of beneficiaries (incl. IDP)	IDP Beneficiaries (only)
Cumulative Period Targeted	3,300	0
Reporting Period Reached	0	0
Cumulative Reached	0	0

SECTOR 2: Economic Recovery and Market Systems	Total number of beneficiaries (incl. IDP)	IDP Beneficiaries (only)
Cumulative Period Targeted	3,610	0
Reporting Period Reached	887	0
Cumulative Reached	1994	0

SECTOR 3: Nutrition	Total number of beneficiaries (incl. IDP)	IDP Beneficiaries (only)



Cumulative Period Targeted	6,674	0
Reporting Period Reached	0	0
Cumulative Reached	0	0

SECTOR 4: Protection	Total number of beneficiaries (incl. IDP)	IDP Beneficiaries (only)
Cumulative Period Targeted	40	0
Reporting Period Reached	0	0
Cumulative Reached	0	0

SECTOR 5: Risk Management and Policy Practice	Total number of beneficiaries (incl. IDP)	IDP Beneficiaries (only)
Cumulative Period Targeted	600	0
Reporting Period Reached	0	0
Cumulative Reached	0	0

SECTOR 6: Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene	Total number of beneficiaries (incl. IDP)	IDP Beneficiaries (only)
Cumulative Period Targeted	11,216	0
Reporting Period Reached	0	0
Cumulative Reached	0	0

Indicator	Target	Reporting period	Cumulative	% of target met	Comments
Sector Name: Agriculture and Food Security					
Subsector Name: Improving Agricultural Production/Food Security					
Indicator 1: Number of people benefiting from seed systems/agricultural input activities, by sex	600 people (300 female; 300 male)	0	0	0%	No agricultural inputs distributed yet.
Indicator 2: Number of people benefiting from livestock activities by sex	2,700 (810 female; 1,890 male)	0	0	0%	Livestock activities shall begin when Pastoralist Field Schools (PFS) are established and field demonstrations commence.
Sector Name: Economic Recovery and Market Systems					
Subsector Name: Temporary Employment					
Indicator 1: Number of people employed through CFW activities, by sex	1,870 (1,309 female; 561 male)	0	854 (451 female; 403 male)	45.67%	This achievement represents that achieved with match funds. More progress achieved with USAID funds will be reported next quarter.
Indicator 2: Average Total USD amount per person earned through CFW activities	140 USD	0	N/A		



Indicator 3: Total USD amount channeled in to the program area through sub- sector activities	548,400 USD	0	119,560 USD	21.80%	
Subsector Name: New Livelihoods Development					
Indicator 1: Number of people assisted through new livelihoods development activities, by sex	1740 (1,305 female; 435 male)	887 (645 female; 242 male)	1140 (885 female; 255 male)	65.52%	This achievement represents that achieved with match funds. More progress achieved with USAID funds will be reported next quarter.
Indicator 3: Percentage of people, by sex, continuing in their new livelihoods by program completion	Female: 80% Male: 80%	N/A	N/A	N/A	
Sector Name: Nutrition					
Subsector Name: Infant and Young Child Feeding and Behavioral Change					
Indicator 1: Number of people receiving behavior change interventions by sex and age	6,674 (4,537 female; 2,137 male)	0	0	0%	
Sector Name: Protection					
Subsector Name: Protection Coordination, Advocacy, and Information					
Indicator 1: Number of people trained in protection by sex	40 (20 female; 20 male)	0	0	0%	
Sector Name: Risk Management and Policy Practice					
Subsector Name: Capacity Building and Training					
Indicator 1 : Number of people trained in disaster preparedness, mitigations and management, by sex	600 (300 female; 300 male)	0	0	0%	
Sector Name: Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene					
Subsector Name: Hygiene Promotion					
Indicator 1 : Number of people receiving direct hygiene promotion (excluding mass media campaigns and without double-counting)	6,674 (4,537 female; 2,137 male)	0	0	0%	
Subsector Name: Water Supply Infrastructure					
Indicator 1: Number of people directly benefitting from the water supply infrastructure program	4,542 (2,758 female; 1,784 male)	0	0	0%	

MAIN ACTIVITIES FOR NEXT QUARTER

The following table summarizes the main activities for the second quarter:

Objective 1: Increased capacity of HHs & communities to adapt to recurrent shocks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Undertake Climate Vulnerability and Capacity (CVCA) in target communities - TOT on PMERL for CARE staff
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Training of VCs (conflict resolution, gender sensitivity, DRR and climate change, O&M, etc.) - Develop and strengthen the role of VSLAs as community safety nets - Community mobilization, sensitization and targeting for CFW
Objective 2: Build on the ecological, social, and economic capital of HHs & communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Procurement of cash-for-work tools and preparation of contractual costs - Develop rangeland management plans and use Cash for Work to support rangeland rehabilitation
Objective 3: Robust learning of communities, CARE and its local partners, USAID and others working to improve resilience in Somalia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Partner with Tulane University to link objectives 1 and 3 by testing and measuring the Theory of Change (ToC), and specifically the new PMERL tool

PICTURES



Picture 1 (left): Community mobilization in Karin village, Erigavo district

Picture 2 (right): Community mobilization in Xiin-galool village, Badhan district



Picture 3 (left): The mayor of Erigavo addressing the stakeholder engagement workshop participants
Picture 4 (right): Plenary discussion of the stakeholder engagement workshop



Picture 5 (left): Degraded rangeland in Jiidali village to be rehabilitated by the project
Picture 6 (right): Degraded rangeland in Sibayo village to be rehabilitated by the project