



SOMALIA EMERGENCY FOOD SECURITY RESPONSE (SEFSR)/ FOOD FOR PEACE PROGRAM (FFP)

FY16 Q3 RESULTS REPORT (January 1 – March 31, 2016)

PROJECT SUMMARY

Award No.	FFP-G-15-00069
Start Date	June 2, 2015
End Date	June 1, 2016
Report Date	April 30, 2016
Total Award	\$2,500,000

A) Summary

The 2nd, 3rd and 4th monthly unconditional cash transfers were made during this reporting period and all the targeted participants (2,400 HHs) received their allocations of the distribution as planned. Mogadishu and Wanlaweyn beneficiaries each received \$65 while those in Kismayu received \$75 each. Further, during the period of reporting, 1st and 2nd payments of conditional cash transfer for 500HH beneficiaries in Wanlaweyn targeting the rehabilitation of five community water catchments was done. A total of \$80,000 was distributed among the 500 HH beneficiaries with each HH receiving \$160 for the 1st and 2nd payments made so far.

In Benadir and Lower Jubba regions, rehabilitation of market feeder roads and waste management were prioritized by both administrations as the cash for work schemes (CfW), including requesting Mercy Corps officially to support them on the same effort. The market feeder roads identified in both areas link farms to the market, making it easier for the farmers to access the markets with their produce.

On the other hand, both local authorities in Daynile (Benadir) and Kismayu (Lower Jubba) districts emphasized the need for setting up waste management systems and have put mechanisms in place to ensure sustainability of the infrastructure through local community involvement. Mercy Corps commenced rehabilitation by registering beneficiaries from 200 HHs in each of the districts and the activities are expected to be completed in the next reporting period. Currently, the CfW activities are ongoing and each of the CfW beneficiaries will be working for 24 days per month and paid \$5 per day. This will enable them to improve their household food security particularly during this lean period where the community coping mechanisms have been diminished as a result of the prevailing drought in the country. It is envisioned that completion of the market feeder roads in both Mogadishu and Kismayu will improve access for transportation of goods and enhance services among farmers, traders and other market players and will contribute to economic recovery and market systems.

Similarly, the waste management system activities in both Kismayu and Mogadishu will improve the environmental sanitation in the target districts, with the local authorities establishing a sustainable waste management system. Mercy Corps also engaged the services of 12 people as supervisors to oversee the CfW activities in the three districts ensuring attendance and the work input by each beneficiary on a daily basis for the working days. The supervisors also act as liaison between the beneficiaries and Mercy Corps, in addition to sharing attendance sheets and photographs on a weekly basis, coordinating with the district local authorities and Village Select Committees (VSC).

During the period, Mercy Corps started the dissemination of nutritional messages targeting households with children older than 5 years and pregnant mothers. The messages are being disseminated through a local FM radio station and the use of IEC materials targeting residents in the three project locations. The nutrition messages were adopted from the Somalia Nutrition Cluster and in further consultation with UNICEF. The messages are released through Kulmiye FM Radio which has capacity to reach the audience in Banadir, Lower Shabelle and Lower Juba region while the IEC materials are displayed at MCHs and other health facilities within the reach of the project beneficiaries.

Mercy Corps conducted Post-Distribution Monitoring (PDM) after every unconditional cash transfer to ensure effectiveness in delivery processes and establish realization of the project’s expected objectives. Market trend analysis was also conducted to establish the effect of injection of cash into the local economy.

The period had a far reaching effect of drought significantly deteriorating food security and livelihood situations in Gedo and Lower & Middle Shabelle regions. There are reports of drying up of the Shabelle River (the first time in 50 years) and non-permanent water sources such as *berkads* (underground cisterns), dams, streams, strategic boreholes and other permanent water structures breaking down as a result of pressure from overuse.

The limited pasture and water availability in pastoral areas of Wanlaweyn district resulted in livestock deaths, increased goat abortions and poor livestock body conditions. The ability of people to rely on local social support networks has also been affected by loss of productive assets and lack of work opportunities coupled with increasing needs due to food shortages. The drought also triggered acute water shortages, poor pastures, and displacements in the affected areas of Gedo, Lower & Middle Shabelle regions. Most affected villages include Maykiridi, Baqtile and Sigole in Wanlaweyn district. The implication for affected households is that the little money available for food and other household expenses will be used to pay for water.

B) Project Implementation Progress

Unconditional Cash Transfers

The 2nd, 3rd and 4th month cash transfers were made to the registered participants from 2,400 HHs in Banadir, Wanlaweyn and Kismayu, benefiting a total of 12,039 (7,667F) beneficiaries. In all districts the payments were conducted through mobile money transfers (MMT) simultaneously for transparency and in order to inject enough money into the local economy hence strengthen the local markets. MC staff supervised and monitored payments, in addition to continued liaison with the service provider and the village select committees to ensure smooth delivery of project activity. The table below shows the distribution to beneficiaries receiving cash transfers by region.

Table 1: Summary of 2nd, 3rd, and 4th Month Cash Distribution Participants by Region

Region	Project Beneficiaries	Indirect Beneficiaries	Amount Received per HHs (US\$)	Total USD disbursed to the Project Participant for 3 month period
Banadir	900	4129	65	USD 175,500
Wanla Weyn	300	1436	65	USD 58,500
Kismayo	1200	6474	75	USD 270,000
TOTAL	2400	12039		USD 504,000

On comparing the amount of cash transferred by regions against the Food Security and Nutrition Analysis Unit – Somalia (FSNAU) data of MEB for the distribution months (January, February

and March 2016), it was evident that the distributed cash was able to cover HH basic needs in the proportion shown in the table below.

Table 2: Performance of the Project in Covering MEB Values

Region	Cash Transferred (US\$)	Average FSNAU MEB (Jan, Feb & March 2016)	Comment¹
Banadir	65	84.7	This shows that the distributed cash covered 76.7% of the MEB which is sufficient to meet the minimum needs of a household.
Lower Shabelle	65	75.7	85.9% of the MEB was covered by the cash distributed which is sufficient amount to cover the basic needs.
Lower Juba	75	99	75.8% of the MEB was covered by the amount of cash distributed to the project participants.

From the above data, it is evident that the project managed to provide cash enabling the participants to cover their household basic needs, hence the project goal being realized. Comparatively, the prices of essential commodities seem to have reduced in both Banadir and Lower Shabelle, but increased in the Lower Jubba during the period of coverage. This corroborates the results obtained from the PDM and market assessment.

After the payments, Mercy Corps conducted a monthly Post-Distribution Monitoring (PDM) survey with a random selection of 360 participant households from the total 2400 participants, distributed proportionately across the project areas in Banadir, Wanlaweyn and Kismayu. Further, a monthly market survey was also conducted to assess the prices of the commodities at the time of the cash transfers to corroborate the PDM information assertion that the distribution did not affect the market prices. The market data was collected from the main markets in each of the three sites (Banadir, Wanlaweyn and Kismayu). The PDM data was analyzed, with results discussed among staff and areas of weakness strengthened. Before the following distribution, Mercy Corps continued to sensitize the project participants on the distribution processes to ensure that they have full information, including their entitlement. This is a continuous process to ensure that beneficiary feedback is taken into consideration to improve and address in case of something is not working well.

Conditional Cash Transfers - Cash for Work (CfW)

Implementation of the cash for work (CfW) schemes in Wanlaweyne continued during the period of reporting, with 500 (414M) participants representing 500 HHs being engaged. Five water

¹ Food Basket account for 70-80% of the total MEB, in line with Engle's economic theory, that the poorest spend a big portion of their income on food (food accounts for the largest share of the household budget). The food items are arranged in order of their relative contribution to the basket. For further reading, see <http://www.fsnau.org/sectors/markets>

catchments which are rain-fed were rehabilitation as CfW schemes. The water catchments targeted (Maykiridi, Sigole and Baqtile) have high volume water retention capacity serving approximately 5000 HHs from 12 neighboring villages, benefitting both humans and livestock. The target population is mainly agro-pastoralists growing crops (sorghum, beans, watermelon and sesame) and pastoralists keeping livestock (sheeps, cows and camels). The third and last month activities will be finalized in the next reporting period, with the beneficiaries having received their dues for two months amounting to \$160 per HH in the current reporting period benefiting a total of 2,657 people.

In Kismayu and Banadir, the activities were decided upon and commenced in consultation with both the local authorities and community leaders in the region. The program targeted the most vulnerable able-bodied living in the IDP camps in Kismayu and Banadir and host communities. 200 HH members consisting of 168F and 32M were recruited to participate in the CfW activities in Kismayu, aiming to benefit 1159 people. On the other hand in Banadir, the 200 CfW beneficiaries consisted of 152F and 48M aiming to benefit 1472 people. There were no payments made to the CfW beneficiaries in Banadir and Kismayu since they had not completed their schemes by the end of the reporting quarter. The activities are targeted for completion in the next reporting quarter.

Mercy Corps has closely worked with local administrations, traditional leaders, women and youth leaders who make up the Village Select Committees (VSCs) in all targeted villages and IDP settlements. The VSCs have in turn identified the most food insecure and able-bodied households for participation in the CfW activities. Mercy Corps extensively conducted community sensitization and awareness for both beneficiaries and the VSC on the selection criteria, feedback and complaint handling mechanism.

The selected CfW participants were issued with telephone Sim cards issued by Hormuud Telecom Limited which facilitated cash transfers through electronic means. During the Sim card distribution exercise, participants were also trained on their use, including their rightful amount. Mercy Corps team shared with the beneficiaries the complaint and feedback mechanism number which they could contact for assistance.

The CfW activities mainly focused on rehabilitation of the community infrastructure of significant importance to the community. In Banadir and Kismayu road clearance and garbage clean-up campaigns were done as requested by the local authorities through formal communications with MC. The selected market feeder roads in Daynile district remained impassable due to lack of maintenance and with vegetation overgrown since the collapse of the Somalia National Government in 1991. These connect Daynile district to Lower and Middle Shebelle agricultural rich areas where big trucks transporting agricultural products from the regions to Banadir move. Clean-up campaigns were also selected to address the issue of garbage in Mogadishu and Kismayu especially in the IDP settlements which were posing sanitation and health risks. All these sites were assessed together with MC staff, local authorities, and community and camp leaders. CfW tools comprising of rakes, pig axes, machetes, spades, gloves, masks and wheelbarrows were distributed to facilitate the road clearance and clean-up campaigns.

Nutrition Messages

During the period, Mercy Corps started the dissemination of nutritional messages targeting households with children older than 5 years and pregnant mothers. The messages are being disseminated through a local FM radio station and IEC materials provided targeting residents in the three project locations. The nutrition messages were adopted from the Somalia Nutrition Cluster and in further consultation with UNICEF. The messages are released through Kulmiye FM Radio which has the capacity to reach audiences in Banadir, Lower Shabelle, and Lower Juba regions while the IEC materials are displayed at MCHs and other health facilities within the reach of the project beneficiaries.

Plans for the 4th Quarter

Mercy Corps is planning to conduct the following activities in the next quarter in the respective three districts/regions.

	District	Region	Planned Activities
1	Daynile	Banadir	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- 5th and 6th month cash transfers for the unconditional cash beneficiaries in Daynile districts for the months of April and May, 2016- continuation of nutrition awareness on FM radios and distribution of IEC materials with nutrition messages- continue conducting monthly PDMs and market price surveys- continuation of the CfW activities for the identified schemes
2	Wanlaweyn	Lower Shebelle	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- 5th, 6th month cash transfers for the unconditional cash participants in Wanlaweyn district- 3rd month cash transfer for the conditional cash transfer participants in Wanlaweyn district- nutrition awareness on radios, distribution of IEC materials with nutrition messages- monthly PDMs and market price surveys
3	Kismayu	Lower Juba	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- 5th, 6th month cash transfers for the unconditional cash participants in Kismayu district- nutrition awareness on radios, distribution of IEC materials with nutrition messages- monthly PDMs and market price surveys- continuation of CFW activities

Main Challenges

- Severe effects of the drought that have led to scarcity of water and pastures, diminished level of permanent water sources including Shabelle and Juba Rivers, the drying up of ponds and boreholes resulting in water shortages, poor harvests, and reduced access to seasonal agricultural employment which exacerbated food insecurity in villages of Wanlaweyn district thus increasing vulnerability and the total collapse of community coping mechanisms.

- Increased populations are exposed to further vulnerability in all project areas and are prompting community elders, local administrations and regional authorities calling for humanitarian aid to respond to the current drought situation, while it was not possible for the project to accept any new beneficiaries since the beneficiaries have already been selected.

Lessons Learned

- Unavailability of emergency funds while responding in an unpredictable environment, prone to recurrent shocks pose a critical challenge in the effectiveness in response since more deserving cases arise but because the funds are unavailable, it is not possible to respond.
- The use of the Mobile Money Transfer (MMT) system for the cash grant project implementation really improved the quality of the project implementation as it increased the efficiency of money transfers and strengthened the accountability aspects. The use of Sim-cards also eased monitoring processes and follow up of beneficiaries by both Mercy Corps and the third party monitoring group. The beneficiaries on their side also noted and recommended the use of mobile money transfers as efficient, safe and secure mode of payment.

Recommendations

- Mercy Corps recommends the expansion and increase of safety net programming in South Central Somalia in order to support the large vulnerable and ultra poor populations in the areas where food security has further deteriorated due to the prevailing drought.
- Urgent provision of water through water trucking as a lifesaving measure has been identified as the most needed commodity among the pastoral and agro-pastoral communities in the affected areas. The majority of these communities are in deplorable conditions with severely reduced/lost access to security, food and water.
- Due to the current experience of the drought's effects on livelihood sources that exacerbate the already existing vulnerability situation leading to a need for emergency response, it would be recommended that emergency funds be set aside for response in such situations.