



FINAL RESULTS REPORT

**Sustaining Livelihoods for vulnerable older people through enhanced resilience to shocks,
West Darfur, Sudan**

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I Executive Summary

HelpAge International with support from USAID/OFDA implemented the project “Sustaining Livelihoods for Vulnerable Older People through Enhanced Resilience to Shocks” in Habila Locality, West Darfur. The primary objective of the project was to improve resilience, enhance income security and ensure sustainable livelihoods for 13,044 conflict affected vulnerable older people households living in Habila town, Gobe and Tawang villages.

The project started in September 2011 but was further modified in July 2012 following the outcome of a programme review that was conducted in consultation with the USAID/OFDA. In the review, it was realized that the poultry production model based on hybrid chicken rearing was not feasible because the as the main components for the success of the enterprise including poultry abattoir, hatcheries and animal feeds were only available in Khartoum. Based on the survey findings, HelpAge made a request to USAID/OFDA to modify some of the proposed activities related to poultry farming while proposing new activities including - groundnut production, rehabilitation of seasonal bridges (Wadi crossings) and capacity building of older people committees (OPCs) and associations (OPAs).

The proposal and budget modifications were approved by OFDA in July 2012 and a revised Technical Agreement (TA) for the project was also submitted to the relevant Ministry at both State and Federal level which was approved in October 2012.

The project intervened in the sectors of Agriculture and Food Security, and Economic Market Recovery Systems. The objective of the first sector was to increase livestock productivity to

protect and diversify older people's asset bases by supporting them with poultry farming through building their skills on poultry production and management. The objective also focused on ensuring that the older people improve their agriculture production and productivity through groundnut production and value addition.

The latter sector endeavoured to strengthen livelihoods options to increase older people's purchasing power through undertaking different livelihoods activities to overcome chronic vulnerability, poverty and enhancing their resilience to future shocks. In addition, strengthening community structures such as the OPCs, OPAs, and working with local government and community leaders was an integral component of the project as it was a mechanism towards ownership and sustainability of the activities.

II Beneficiary Numbers

	Obj. 1	Obj. 2
Number of beneficiaries targeted during the reporting period	7,200	5,844
Number of beneficiaries reached during the reporting period	10,345	11,545

Total numbers of beneficiaries targeted and reached

T: 13,044
R: 21,890

III Report Against Indicators

Sector Name	Agriculture and Food Security	
Objective	Increasing livestock productivity to protect and diversify older people's asset bases	
Sub-sector	Indicators	Progress
Livestock	Number of animals benefiting from or affected by livestock activities	10,000 animals benefited from livestock activities. This includes the poultry, goats, sheep and donkeys given to beneficiaries for support in SME. The other animals that benefited from the advisory services provided by the trained CAWHs and Veterinary Officer includes camels, and horses.
	Number of people benefiting from livestock activities	4,000 persons benefited from the livestock activities that included trainings, advisory services, and provision of livestock.
	At least 50% older people in the target area are supported to improve self-reliance and livelihoods options by the end of the project	70 % of OPs were supported with agricultural inputs, livestock and poultry that were geared towards self-reliance. At least 80% of these have improved their livelihood options and have the potential to improve their self-reliance. However the benefit accrual of poultry and groundnut production support was affected by New Castle Disease outbreak and poor rains received in the season respectively.

Seeds and Agricultural Inputs	(Projected) increase in number of months of food self-sufficiency due to distributed seed systems/agricultural input for beneficiary families	Despite provision of agriculture inputs (seeds and tools) on time, due to un reliable and scanty rainfall received in the season, the targeted beneficiaries have not increased their food self-reliance months. However the supported production levels have averted immediate hunger crisis for at least four months.
	Number of people benefiting from seed systems/agricultural input activities	600 (358 female and 242 male) households benefited from seeds and tools in Gobie. This amounts to approximately 3,000 people (average household of 5). They additionally received US\$ 140 each towards hiring extra labour for land preparation, weeding and harvesting. Household Survey indicated a positive benefit in the supported households.
	At least 80% of targeted beneficiaries have increased their knowledge, attitude and practices in agricultural production	90% of the targeted households increased their knowledge, attitude and practices in groundnut production. This was done through the adaptation of the holistic extension approach of using Community Agriculture Extension Workers and project staff establishment of demonstration gardens

Sector Name	Economic Recovery and Market Systems	
Objective	Strengthening livelihoods options to increase older people's purchasing power	
Sub-sector	Indicators	Progress
Economic Asset Development	Number of people assisted through economic asset development activities	7,200 beneficiaries supported with agriculture enhancement, livestock and SME that were geared towards strengthening their economic asset development interventions.
	Number and percent of people utilizing economic assets created to support their livelihood pattern	The interventions created a multiplier effect as the target was exceeded by 10-20%. At least 6,000 persons are still "growing" the assets created to support their livelihood options
	Improved welfare and economic wellbeing for at least 50% of targeted older people and their families by the end of the project	5,000 beneficiaries still utilizing their economic assets. At least 50% of those supported by the project reported a positive change in their food and income security compared to if they hadn't been supported. The progress has been affected by deteriorating macro-economic environment which was beyond the project scope.
	1 OPA established and operational by the end of the project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The 6 Older People Committee (OPCs) and 1 Older People Association (OPA) are established and operational. Habila OPA has functional systems and structures in place. They have a constitution, clear leadership, registered at both locality and state levels. Members now know their roles and

		<p>responsibilities as they were effectively engaged in project activities that required their support. They have a functional current bank account with Export Development Bank of Sudan, Geneina branch.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The OPA members are accessing business finance from their savings and loans (revolving scheme) which HelpAge boosted with US\$14,855. • Through their collective voice, they were also able to acquire office space and land to construct their own office from Habilla locality administration.
Market Infrastructure Rehabilitation	Amount of market infrastructure rehabilitated (no. 'wadi' crossings/bridges)	Two wadi crossings (Harm Al Kawal and Korjah) were rehabilitated and are now functional. During rehabilitations, the two wadis gave temporary employment to 115 male and 68 female. For both temporary employment and rehabilitation materials at least US\$ 166,277 was injected in Habilla locality and is now part of the resources that are stimulating their rural economy.
	Number of cash grants to Small Micro-enterprises (SMEs)	400 cash grants provided (Tawanj-100, Gobie- 100 and Habilla 200)
	Total USD amount of cash grants to Small Micro-enterprises (SMEs)	US\$ 56,000 provided to support feasible SME in Tawanj, Gobie and Habilla.
	All Wadi crossings rehabilitated are functioning sustainably by the end of the project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 wadis rehabilitated are functional and sustainable • Improved incomes and market trade links among the business communities between Habilla and Gobies as there are follows in merchandise. The established wadi rehabilitation committees are monitoring the wadis to ensure that they are repaired past the project. • As Wadis are community assets, the project directly and indirectly benefited the entire population of Habilla that is estimated at 50,000
	Increased income levels and purchasing power for at least 50% of older people living in the three targeted areas by the end of the project.	Since the support was not equally provided to the three targeted areas, on average 40 % of the supported OPs increased their incomes, purchasing power and welfare (50% Habilla, 42% Gobe, 27% Tawanj)
	At least 70% of small micro-enterprises supported are	By the end of the project, at least 90% of the supported SME were functional and OPs were happy. The SME that were provided through fair

	functioning sustainably by the end of the project	(voucher) also created peacefully coexistence between farmers and pastoralists/nomads as both farmers and pastoralist traders were identified and supplied SME through fairs.
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IV Assessment and Surveillance Data Used to Measure Results

Prior to the start of the project, HelpAge conducted a baseline survey to establish a bench mark of the status of the OP's upon which the project results would be measured. During the implementation, three sets of monitoring tools were developed and utilized by the project team:

(a) Home Visit: This tool was utilised by the Community Animal Health Worker. The tool captured information on animal health, disease surveillance housing, deliveries, feeds and feeding and marketing.

(b) Field Visit: This tool was relevant for agriculture supported interventions (groundnuts) and used by both project staff and Community Agriculture Extension Workers. The tool also captured information on farmer's circumstances, type of soil, soil fertility, time of planting and weeding, plant health, methods of plant protection, climate, harvesting and marketing.

(c) Small Micro Enterprise (SME) tool: This was utilised by project staff (Livelihoods Officer and Extension Worker) to establish the performance of the supported SME. The tool collected data on daily income and expenditures, amount of monies saved on daily basis, utilization of savings, challenges and how handled, marketability, sustainability and replication of the SME.

The information gathered was supposed to be analysed on quarterly basis but due to staff turnover, almost 50% of the data was not analysed as the team concentrated mostly on implementation. Enriching information was also captured through midterm reviews at locality level and meetings with OPA and OPCs.

V Success Stories

Success stories and explanation of success achieved, constraints encountered and adjustments made for achieving the objectives.

Groundnut production

During the distribution of both groundnut seed, tools and cash grants, the community leaders and older people were happy and expressed their gratitude to HelpAge as some other humanitarian agencies promise them items and did not realize their commitments or if they did, the quantities promised were not respected. Beneficiaries expressed their appreciation to the project for the timely distribution of the seeds and labour support, and the transparent way which it was done. Community leaders testified that they have never had such successful peaceful distribution where people receive money and seeds with no incidences of violence and conflict. The beneficiaries applauded the provision of tools (donkey plough) as they were used to rudimentary tools that would take over one week to cultivate 1 acre of land. By using ploughs they can now plough the same piece of land within one day.

Groundnut Cash Grant Transfers

Under the complex insecure post conflict environment in the project area, with support from multi-cultural and cross tribal groupings without causing tension and clashes the 600 beneficiaries grouped themselves in small groups of 10-20 people to receive cash grants. These small groups based on their levels of trust, and transparency identified and recommended a member amongst themselves who was officially endorsed by the community leaders (Omudha and Furusha) to

secretly come to HelpAge Geneina office to receive monies on behalf of the group (cheque system). These identified people, travelled on different days to HelpAge. During the actual distribution of the cash grant at community level, HelpAge staffs based in the Gobie mobilized people based on their groups to officially come and sign for their cash grant. US\$ 100,688 staggered in three phases was transferred in Gobie out without any conflict.

Wadi crossing rehabilitation

HelpAge worked with the Engineer from the Ministry of Planning and Construction to assess the state of the 3 recommended Wadi crossings (Korjah, Sisi and Harrma Al Kawal). The engineer visited the sites, developed the rehabilitation plan and Bills of Quantity (BoQ) towards their restoration. Upon reception of the BoQ, we realized the figures quoted were too high, and resources available not adequate to rehabilitate the three wadis. Based on these assessments, we had to seek and consulted the opinion of third parties. HelpAge consulted independent engineers and UNAMID who confirmed that these were within acceptable ranges and not inflated. The cost of rehabilitating the Wadi's had sky rocketed since the activity was budgeted for at project design stage.

HelpAge requested a budget realignment of some underspent budget lines to rehabilitate two Wadi's crossings instead of three. The underspending that called for realignments was due to weaker local currency against US\$ as well as savings on staff salaries. The realignments were approved and subsequently the tender process to rehabilitate two wadi crossings (Harrm Alkawal and Korjah) flagged off. Both suppliers who were chosen to supply rehabilitation materials (cement, iron bars, binding, gravels, aggregates, drums, Jerry cans spades etc.) came from Habila locality. This was an opportunity to stimulate rural economy (community) as substantial amount of monies equivalent to US\$166,277 was injected towards procurement of these materials.

For effective management and control during the rehabilitation of the two wadi crossings, a 10 person Wadi Crossing rehabilitation Committees for the two sites was set up with representatives from HAC, NISS, OPA, OPC community leaders, and HelpAge. Their role was to ensure timely quality works and verification of all items provided by the suppliers, mobilizing and supervising people on Cash for Work (CfW). The selection criterion for persons enrolled for CfW was: able bodied OPs, who are either IDP, returnee and from host community. For OPs who could not engage in physical activities they identified and recommended people from their households to participate in the CfW. 103 persons (55 male and 48 female) were employed each receiving US\$ 6 per day for a period of 30 days. Out of the 103 person, 31 were pastoralist, 56 IDPs and 16 returnees. In addition, the project gave temporary employment to 8 local artisans/engineers who did the technical works. The quality assurance for the two Wadis' crossings was done by Mr. Mukhatar Abdalla Mohamed, an engineer from the State Ministry of Planning and Construction who provided supervision throughout the construction period.

Beside the employment benefits during wadi rehabilitation (CfW), the suppliers of construction materials also created temporary employment opportunities to sizeable number of people. At least, 80 males were also hired by the suppliers to gather and load hard core stones aggregates, and gravels on trucks. Employment was also given to service providers like the transporters.

The Wadis have also created higher multiplier effects in the community. There are now improved trade links between Habila and Gobie. Traders can now easily trade their merchandises between the two destinations during rainy season. There are two livestock auction markets in Habila town. During the rainy season when wadis flood, livestock traders used to find it difficult crossing to the market. After the rehabilitations, it is now easier for them to trade their livestock regardless of the season.

The rehabilitated wadi crossings also improved children's school attendance. This benefited particularly children from Harem Alkawal community who study in Habila town. During flooding of the Wadis they used to stay at home until water levels subsided.

Please also see the evaluation report for Case Studies.

V Overall Performance

A discussion of the overall performance of the project including details of any discrepancy between expected and actual results and any recommendations for improving the design of the programme.

Despite the challenges associated with the poultry vaccination, unreliable scanty rainfall that affected groundnut production, under budgeting for the wadi crossing rehabilitation coupled with the staff turnover and bureaucratic procedures the project successfully achieved over 90% of its target. These issues did not have a major effect on the overall project results as explained in the section of project accomplishment.

In future, it is recommended to do a thorough assessment before undertaking high investment projects like wadi crossings, where HelpAge lacks experience.

Gradually, we will also shift our OP's livelihoods programmes. We need to adapt a livelihoods approach that is "OP centred" but that is also more inclusive of the whole household and community. When a community is food and income secure there is a high likelihood that older people will also benefit from this.

VI Overall Cost Effectiveness

Overall cost effectiveness, with particular attention paid to cost savings and/or cost overruns, and other significant cost impacts such as major exchange rates fluctuation or other types of inflation should be detailed.

There were substantial savings that were due to a weaker Sudanese currency against the US\$ as well as human resources. Based on these savings and the under budgeted activities, HelpAge submitted two budget realignments to which USAID/OFDA was flexible and approved. This flexibility facilitated the team to increase the project outputs and effectively spend 95% of the project budget. The provision of goods and services were achieved effectively using the donors agreed procedures as stipulated in the contract. All inputs were procured at competitive rates with at least over 50 % of overall project budget spend on programme supplies.

The withdrawal of government fuel subsidies and subsequent doubling up of fuel prices in last two months of the project somewhat impacted on the projects' operations. Prices of basic and other items skyrocketed significantly, and vulnerable OP's households were most affected. This greatly affected the profit margins of those involved in SMEs

Considerable increase of national staff salaries that followed a survey commissioned by HelpAge, and introduction of a new staff organogram in HelpAge's Sudan programme slightly increase the human resource budget.

VII Actual accomplishments

A comparison of actual accomplishments for the reporting period, with the established goals and objectives, and expected results; the findings of the investigator; or both. Data (both qualitative and quantitative) must be presented using established baseline data and indicators, and be supported by a brief narrative. Whenever appropriate and the output of programs or projects can be readily quantified, such quantitative data should be related to cost data for computation of unit costs

The project goal was to improve resilience, enhance income security and ensure sustainable livelihoods for 13,044 conflicts affected vulnerable older people households living in Habila, Tawanj and Gobie. To achieve this goal, the project intervened in the sectors of Agriculture and Food Security, and Economic Market Recovery Systems.

Sector: Agriculture and food security

The expected results for this sector were increased livestock productivity by protecting and diversify older people's asset bases and improved relationship between pastoralist and farming communities that lead to reduced conflict and increased production. The sector aimed to reach 7,200 beneficiaries (4,800 IDPs) to be supported with various interventions that included: Poultry provision, promotion of improved poultry production, training of Community Animal Health Workers (CAHWs), Agricultural production, Crop Protection Committee (CPC) and Support Community Agriculture Extension Worker (CAEWs). Through these interventions, the sector was able to reach at least 10,345 beneficiaries (4,966 IDP).

The key indicators to measure success the project success were:

1. No. of animals benefiting from or affected by livestock activities,
2. No. of people benefiting from livestock activities,
3. At least 80% of the targeted households have improved self-reliance and livelihoods options by the end of the project,
4. (Projected) increase in number of months of food self-sufficiency due to distributed seed systems/agricultural input for beneficiary families,
5. No. of people benefiting from seed systems/agricultural input activities,
6. At least 80% of targeted households have increased their knowledge, attitude and practices in agricultural production

Sub-Sector: Livestock

Activity 1 - Poultry provision.

This activity aimed to support 600 older people households through the provision of 10 indigenous birds per households, as well as provide training to beneficiaries on good poultry management practices, vaccination practices, and feed making using local resources prior to distribution. Working with the Older People Association (OPA) and Community Leaders (Sheikh and Omudha) in Habila, all the 600 (180 male and 420 female) registered households were supported with 10 chicken each through a voucher distribution system. Training was given to the beneficiaries to enhance OPs skills and knowledge on local chicken management. Out of the supported households, 324 were IDPs, 272 host community and 4 returnees. These beneficiaries were selected based on their vulnerability levels with high priority given to households in which older persons were living alone, caring for dependents, had chronic disease and with disability.

The project also procured 300 poultry cages that were supplied to 300 out of the 600 OPs who received poultry. The selection criterion for the 300 OPs was based on; availability of minimal 8 chickens, must be IDP, and is a woman headed household. As there was an outbreak of New Castle Disease (NCD), the distribution of these cages reduced the mortality rate as chicken were manageable and protected from contact with infected ones. Attempt to vaccinate the birds were not successful as the system of getting vaccines in the Sudan is highly bureaucratic. From the monitoring reports, out of the 6,000 chickens distributed, 1,513 died of the disease (25.21%), whilst 1,492 (24.9%) were sold to cushion immediate needs in the households.

However, despite these hiccups, the chickens that survived developed "recovery resistance" and are steadily multiplying. The provision of these chickens increased and diversified the OPs asset

bases and diets. For the beneficiary who managed to keep their chickens well, the project is contributing to their self-reliance as they are at least assured of monthly income to cater for their domestic needs like soap, salt, clothes, and medicine and support the vulnerable children under their care. The project also boasted business opportunities for poultry traders in Habilla. The activity also saw an injection of US\$46, 487 to the local market, as the suppliers were locally based and identified with the support of OPA. This trade linkage is benefiting beneficiaries past the distribution period. The traders are providing a market to the beneficiaries as they know where most of the chickens were distributed.

Table 1: Poultry distribution in Habilla according to sector locations

Locality	Sector	# Chick	HH	M	F	Total Benef	Category			Age ¹			
							ID P	Ret nes	Hst Cmt	50-59	60-69	70-79	80-89
Habilla	Al salam	1,500	150	48	107	750	81	68	0	13	50	56	30
Habilla	Al Madaris	1,500	150	45	105	750	81	68	4	18	63	58	25
Habilla	Al Wadi	1,500	150	37	113	750	81	68	0	15	51	69	12
Habilla	Al Game	1,500	150	43	107	750	81	68	0	7	49	73	11
Total		6,000	600	180	420	3,000	324	272	4	53	213	256	78

Activity 2 - Improved poultry production

This activity aimed to set up a small pilot for crossbreeding 15 indigenous poultry with 15 hybrids to improve egg production without compromising the strength of the indigenous breed (resistance to disease and adaptability to local climate). Due to the withdrawal of support by the government for establishing an indigenous poultry cross-breeding pilot project, the activity was dropped. The funds budgeted for these activities were re-allocated to the under-budgeted wadi construction activity and provision of 300 poultry cages.

Activity 3 - Training of Community Animal Health Workers (CAHWs)

This activity aimed to train 10 CAHWs on animal extension services through a three weeks (15 days) intensive course, which was followed by refresher trainings during the project. The 10 CAHW's (3 female and 7 male) who were identified with support of the OPA and community leaders were equipped with appropriate animal husbandry techniques. This was a 3 weeks intensive course conducted by two Veterinary Officers and one Veterinary Technician from the MoA with support from the project's Veterinary Officer. The course strengthened CAHWs skills, knowledge and understanding of animal production, disease and parasite management and extension services.

This training proved useful as CAHWs actively got involved in disease surveillance and participated in containing the further spread of the suspected NCD especially by sensitizing the poultry owners on prophylaxis and management measures. Their support greatly reduced the chicken mortality rates by at least 30 % as over 1,492 birds are suspected to have died of the disease. With the technical support from the Veterinary Officer, the CAHW's were also instrumental in the provision of Para veterinary extension services to other livestock beneficiaries within the catchment areas. This increased the uptake of animal husbandry practices by the livestock keepers that contributed to increased livestock productivity and reduced mortality rate. The CAHWs were linked to the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Resources and Fisheries department and FAO who have further built their capacity to participate in future livestock vaccination and treatment campaigns and other services.

¹ Since the project directly supported OPs only, we didn't capture all the age brackets of the under 50 years. However, the Habilla average house size is estimated at 5 persons. It was on this factor of 5 that we estimated the number of beneficiaries reached per specific interventions.

Sub- Sector Seed System and Agriculture Input

Activity 1 - Agricultural production

This intervention aimed to contribute to the project indicators of

- number of people benefiting from seed systems/agricultural input activities
- (Projected) increase in number of months of food self-sufficiency due to distributed seed systems/agricultural input for beneficiary families.

The first indicator was realised as the project supported 600 (358 female and 242 male) older people households in Gobe village with a cash grant of \$200 per household. Out of these 15 were IDP's, 339 returnees and 246 pastoralists/nomads.

Each OP registered received 60 KGs of certified groundnut seeds (Sodari variety) enough to cultivate 2 feddans (0.8 Hectares). The seeds were certified by the Ministry of Agriculture at National and State levels. The farmers also received farm tools (1,800 Ajar, 1,800 Atoria and 200 donkeys ploughs). Donkey ploughs were each shared by three close households. The Sodari variety was recommended by the federal and state Ministry of Agriculture. According to MoA and literature reviews, the variety is earlier maturing, tolerant and/or resistant to drought, resistant to groundnut mosaic virus disease, and yields higher in both sandy and sandy loam soils which are attributes of any proven seed variety.

Seeds were delivered to OP beneficiaries in June, 2013 in time for the planting season. In order to enhance beneficiaries to do field operations on time and add value to their groundnuts, each OP was given a cash grant of US\$ 150 that was staggered for and preparation, planting-US\$ 45; weeding-US\$ 45; and harvesting/oil extraction- US\$60). Overall, US\$ 100,688 was provided as cash grant that was geared towards hiring extra labour/ value chain addition. The rest of the money (US\$ 50) was used to procure seeds through the tender process.

However, despite the provision of inputs (seeds and tools), provision of extension services and cash grants that were done on time, farmers were unable to plant on time due to late arrival of rains. The rains started in the last week of July and ended earlier than expected (October). Most farmers planted groundnut in the second and third week of August (58%). This greatly affected not only groundnuts but also other field crops planted during the season. The beneficiaries were affected a lot as it impacted on the realisation of the second indicator Projected increase in number of months of food self-sufficiency due to distributed seed systems/agricultural input. This situation is confirmed by the Food Security Sector preliminary findings of the annual crop and food supply assessment that indicates that the “hunger gap” is likely to start earlier than usual (Feb/March) due to poor harvests.

It was anticipated that due to the technical and in-kind support, the yields per acre would increase from 420- 550Kgs. However, due to the harsh climate weather condition, the lowest harvest of 160 Kg was realised in Gobie. For farmers who had access and established their gardens near the “wadis”, planted early and their crops benefited from the cool breeze, their yields were on average 600 Kg per acre. In anticipation for better season in 2014, despite the low yields, the beneficiaries were able to reserve some seed for the next season.

Table II: Summary of the beneficiaries registered and supported with groundnut seeds, tools and cash grants in Gobie

		Sex			Category			Age	
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#	Village	M	F	H/H	Benef	IDP	Returnee	Pastor/No mad	Seeds(Kg)	Est. Feddan	50-59	60-69	70-79	80-89
1	Galtaya	3	19	22	110	-	-	22	1,320	44	4	8	10	0
2	Umsangamty	21	29	50	250	-	-	50	3,000	100	5	28	17	0
3	Hamra	6	9	15	75	-	-	15	900	30	0	6	9	0
4	Albosky	9	18	27	135	-	-	27	1,620	54	3	11	13	0
5	Kamkoly	1	8	9	45	-	-	9	540	18	0	3	6	0
6	Talhaya	2	4	6	30	-	-	6	360	12	1	5	0	0
7	Daira	8	18	26	130	-	-	26	1,560	52	3	7	14	2
8	Jaria	6	15	21	105	-	-	21	1,260	42	0	6	15	0
9	Lailia	3	9	12	60	-	-	12	720	24	2	10	0	0
10	Al matar	7	6	13	65	-	-	13	780	26	0	11	2	0
11	Dolonga	5	6	11	55	-	-	11	660	22	0	3	8	0
12	Al wehda	6	14	20	100	-	-	20	1,200	40	3	17	0	0
13	Goz AlOshar	3	3	6	30	-	-	6	360	12	0	0	6	0
14	Naglun	3	3	6	30	-	-	6	360	12	1	5	0	0
15	Enaz	36	49	85	425	15	70	-	5,100	170	14	42	25	4
16	Salam	42	62	104	520	-	104	-	6,240	206	13	33	47	11
17	Dolonga	12	21	33	165	-	33	-	1,980	66	6	11	16	0
18	Sisi	5	5	10	50	-	10	-	600	20	0	7	3	0
19	Khair wajib	3	4	7	35	-	7	-	420	14	1	6	0	0
20	Talhaya	22	21	43	215	-	43	-	2,580	86	0	26	17	0
21	Korcha	7	8	15	75	-	15	-	900	30	3	12	0	0
22	Ashabara	5	7	12	60	-	12	-	720	24	0	5	7	0
23	Dakhanta	3	2	5	25	-	5	-	300	10	0	5	0	0
24	Dambosa	24	18	42	210	-	42	-	2,520	84	8	16	18	0
Total		242	358	600	3000	15	339	246	36,000	1,200	67	283	233	17

Activity 2 - Crop Protection Committee (CPC)

This activity sought to support existing but inactive Crop Protection Committees (CPC) to maintain a conducive farming environment for the farming season. At the inception of this project intervention, HelpAge held meetings with the CPC to chart out the strategies on how to minimize conflicts between farmers and pastoralist/nomads during the cropping season (June to October).

During the meetings it was decided that HelpAge would support and reactivate the defunct CPC. In the meetings, it was agreed that the CPC's responsibilities would also include:

- Settling farmers conflicts on farm land boundaries
- Visiting and meeting pastoralists/nomads who have constructed houses near crop/farmland
- Meeting nomads to agree upon the paths/routes for animals
- Field visits of the affected gardens that have been destroyed by pastoralists/nomad's animals to settle conflicts and meeting herdsmen over water resources
- Field visit and meetings during crop harvest time

During the cropping season, HelpAge supported the CPC with in kind provision of dates, fuel, sugar and tea leaves. The support was provided based on their monthly work plans and reports they submitted to HelpAge. The CPC members also visited and created awareness to farmers and pastoralists/nomads on the issues of boundaries paths/routes for animals. It was discussed and agreed that when pastoralist take their animal for grazing, they need to follow the gazetted path. If someone's animals break into peoples gardens and destroy crops, that person will be penalized by compensating or paying for the crops destroyed. The success of the CPC is depended upon the support and transparency they get from both farmers and pastoralists.

These actions minimized conflicts between farmers and pastoralist/nomads during June to October cropping season. The CPC amicably resolved over 4 key conflicts between the farmers and pastoralist, implying it has been very effective in ensuring pastoralist use demarcated migration routes. The CPC continued to foster relationship between farmers and nomads/pastoralists which is resulting into peaceful coexistence and increased production. Previously, the nomads/pastoralists felt isolated and marginalised. They now feel they are part of the community as 41% of the targeted beneficiaries who received agriculture enhancement support were nomads/pastoralists.

The CPC support was done in Gobie as it was the only place where we had given agriculture inputs for production enhancement. However, the Habilla Locality CPC was also supported with 2 barrels of fuel to enable mobility in their work. The CPC at locality level is mandated to oversee operations of other functional CPCs within the locality

Activity 3: Support Community Agriculture Extension Worker (CAEWs).

This was focused to train and strengthen the capacity of the 5 CAEWs to support 600 OPs groundnut beneficiaries to increase their production and income. The 5 CAEW's in Gobie were identified and recommended by the community leaders (Furusha, Omudha and Sheikh). They were given orientation and hands-on trainings of what is expected of them, form of facilitation, and the approach of their work. The CAEWs each with case load of 120 persons and working for 20 days a month supported 600 groundnut beneficiaries. Despite the effect of the poor rains, their support enabled at least 85% of targeted households to increase their knowledge, attitude and practices in agricultural production. This was achieved through the five groundnut demonstration gardens that were strategically located and led by CAEWs. The demonstrated technologies ranged from row planting, intercropping, soil fertility management and soils and water conservation. From their stocked seeds, farmers are willing and committed to utilise the acquired skills in the next cropping season.

During the extension mission by the CAEWs, it was found that although farmers had been advised to practice "dry planting" in July, most of them were sceptical and planted in August due scanty and unreliable rainfall resulting in poor harvest.

Sector: Economic Recovery and Market Systems (ERMS)

The sector outcome was to strengthen livelihoods options and increased purchasing power of older people. This sector targeted to reach 5,844 beneficiaries of which 3,396 were IDPs. Overall, the project was able to achieve 95 % of the indicators that were geared towards the realization of the outcome.

The indicators that the sector endeavored to achieve included:

1. No. of people assisted through economic asset development activities
2. No. and percent of people utilizing economic assets created to support their livelihood pattern
3. Improved welfare and economic wellbeing for at least 50% of targeted older people and their families by the end of the project
4. 6 OPCs and 1 OPA established and operational by the end of the project
5. Amount of market infrastructure rehabilitated (no. 'wadi' crossings/bridges)
6. No. of cash grants to Small Micro-enterprises (SMEs)
7. Total USD amount of cash grants to SMEs
8. All 'Wadi' crossings rehabilitated are functioning by the end of the project
9. Increased income levels and purchasing power for at least 50% of older people living in the 3 targeted areas by the end of the project.
10. At least 70% of small micro-enterprises supported are functioning sustainably by the end of the project

Subsector: *Economic Asset Development*
Activity 1 - Establish Older People Association (OPA)

The project established 4 new OPCs and 1 OPA that gave social support and provided an advocacy platform for the rights of older people in the community. The OPCs and OPA received relevant trainings that empowered them to manage their own affairs, provide social support and advocacy work to help the vulnerable OPs. They were involved in key decisions as a way of reducing exclusion errors and increasing older people voice in the implementation of the project

Training of OPA in Disaster Risk Reduction and Conflict Mitigation.

HelpAge identified and hired a consultant/experienced trainer in DRR and conflict mitigation that provided a 10 day training course for 120 OPA members (40 from Habilla, 40 from Tawanj and 40 from Gobie). This participatory training utilized the OXFAM manual for community-managed disaster risk reduction. Out of the 120 members trained, 43 were female and 77 male. After the training, the trained OPA/OPC members were able to map risk areas (wadi crossings/seasonal river), in their communities, vulnerability levels, and causes of disaster and mitigation measures. Due to the acquired skills in conflict resolution, the trained members effectively participated and strengthened peaceful co-existence between farmers and pastoralist/nomads. This resulted into improved relations amongst these two groups that reduced the incidences of animal breaking into gardens. The trained members are now willing and prepared to lead appropriate response to future disasters.

Table III: Disaggregated data on Disaster Risk Reduction and Conflict Mitigation training participants

#	Location	Participant		HH Beneficiaries	Category			Age				
		M	F		IDP	Retnees	Host Cmty	50-59	60-69	70-79	80-89	

1	Habila	26	14	40	200	33	0	7	2	18	20	0
2	Tawanj	23	17	40	200	3	32	5	4	16	19	1
3	Gobie	28	12	40	200	9	27	4	1	23	16	0
	Total	77	43	120	600	45	59	16	7	57	55	1

Training of OPA in group dynamics and leadership skills

In order to build and strengthen the capacity of the OPA management on leadership skills, 120 OPA members (77 males and 43 females) from Gobie, Tawanj and Habila were trained in group dynamics and leadership skills for 10 days. The training focused on OPA's roles and responsibilities, governance, process of legalization/formalization, elements of a strengthened OPA's and record keeping.

By the end of the project, the Habila OPA had already put in place functional systems and structures. They have a constitution, clear leadership, registered at both locality and state levels. Members now know their roles and responsibilities as they were effectively engaged in project activities that required their support. They have a functional current bank account with Export Development Bank of Sudan, Geneina branch. Through their collective voice, they contacted the Habila locality administration for office space, which they were indeed given. Also in their request was land to establish their permanent home (office) and the administration gave them land equivalent to 40 M². With their own resources, and some external support, the OPA intends to establish their own office in 2014.

Table IV: Disaggregated data on group dynamics and leadership skills training participants

#	Location	Participant		Total	Beneficiaries	Category			Age			
		M	F			IDP	Returnee	Host Cmty	50-59	60-69	70-79	80-89
1	Habila	26	14	40	200	33	0	7	2	18	20	0
2	Tawanj	23	17	40	200	3	32	5	4	16	19	1
3	Gobie	28	12	40	200	9	27	4	1	23	16	0
	Total	77	43	120	600	45	59	16	7	57	55	1

Training of OPA in business/Association skills training

The purpose was to enhance and strengthen the skills of OPA/OPC members who had received support in SME to effectively manage their enterprises. As the trainings were attended by both OPA/OPC and traders/private sector representatives, the training was used as a forum to share their experiences on the aspects of market dynamics, business opportunities, and marketing principles. In addition to sharing experiences and lessons, the training put emphasis on record keeping, and financial management as they are foundations for successful SME management. Among the lessons and experience shared were those: value addition, collection centres as an effective means to ease producer and traders relations; transparency and reliability is a key building block to trust in any successful business; what product quality means in pricing and marketing OPs.

The trained members were able to grasp the important analytical tools in marketing which enabled them to make important investment decisions vital in operating successful businesses. These included identification and selection of marketable enterprises, production planning, gross margin analysis and participatory market research. During the monitoring missions of the SME, it was realised that the trained OPA members back stopped OPs in SME to effectively manage their

business. There are also improved relations between the traders and OPs who were supported with SME. Through these relations, the OPs who were supported with petty trades (groundnut and millet) were able to improve the quality of their products that increased sheath life and gave them premium price. The traders in Habila and Gobie have established direct links with OPs who were supported with SME and groundnuts.

Though not systematically recorded, at least the SME supported OPs are keeping records to monitor their business to know how much they earn and save per week.

Table V: Disaggregated data on Business/Association skills training participants

#	Location	Participate		HH	Bene	Category			Age			
		M	F			IDP	Retn	Hst Cmtly	50-59	60-69	70-79	80-89
1	Habila	78	33	111	555	74	21	16	22	68	17	4
2	Tawanj	36	16	52	260	6	43	3	8	19	25	0
3	Gobie	67	20	87	435	13	68	6	11	38	34	4
	Total	181	69	250	1250	93	132	25	41	125	76	8

Activity 2: OPA community fund

Representatives of the OPA from Habila, Gobie and Tawanj attended a four days training on OPA community fund management that benefited 30 participants (7 female and 23 male). The purpose of the training was to share experiences, lessons and impart the relevant skills to the OPA leadership on how to effectively manage the community fund. During the training, members discussed and agreed that the community fund will be managed as a saving credit scheme. During the training emphasis was put on savings and loan associations establishment and management, making saving group's constitution, group/association governance and the relevant record for managing savings and loan association. A Committee was constituted to draft a constitution and legalize the scheme.

The OPA developed its constitution and 7 saving and loaning groups were established. Each group comprises of 20 OPs and sits every fortnight where each member saves US\$ 0.5. By the end of the project, the OPA (groups) had an accumulated saving of US \$ 485 that they deposited on their established functional bank account with Export Development Bank of Sudan, Geneina branch.

As support to OPA community fund, based on their own savings (US \$ 485), HelpAge deposited US\$ 14,855 into their account. This support acted as seed capital and is being managed as a "Sanduk" (revolving fund) through which members are now accessing business finance for their community IGA activities that benefit older people and their families.

For effective management of the fund, prior to HelpAge's deposits, the OPA leadership had to sign an Memorandum of Understanding with HelpAge stipulating the terms and conditions of managing the fund and the implications associated with mismanagement that among others included: all loans to be given in transparent manner during OPA meetings, loans to be given to routine savers, OPA leadership to pay back the monies if implicated in the embezzlement, taking legal action against fund misappropriation etc. Even after the end of the project HelpAge core team will continue to give close technical backstopping to OPA until their capacity is build and strengthened.

Sub Sector: Market Infrastructure and rehabilitation

Activity 1 - Wadi crossing rehabilitation

This activity aimed to rehabilitate three “wadi” crossings (which exist but are not functional) between Habila and Gobe using a cash for work approach. The two wadi crossings of Korjah, and Harrma Al Kawal were successful rehabilitated. They are community assets that directly and indirectly benefited OPs and the general community in Habila and Gobie (**Ref. success story**). The population that is ought to be benefited from rehabilitated wadis is estimate in Habila is 50, 000 of which 15,533 are IDPs The community will continue to rip the future benefit of the wadi rehabilitation. The Wadi Rehabilitation Committees established during the rehabilitation are more than willing and committed to monitor the performance of the Wadis for any future repairs. They are hopeful that they will mobilize the community for some minor repairs and lobby for the support beyond their capacity.

Activity 2 - Cash grants to Small Micro Enterprise

This activity sought to provide 400 individuals with US\$ 133 each, in a combination of individuals working alone or in various group-sized businesses. This component targeted 200 beneficiaries in Habilla, 100 beneficiaries in Gobe and 100 in Tawang and focused on ensuring that at least 70% of SME supported are functioning sustainably; and that there is increased income levels and purchasing power for at least 50% of older people living in the 3 targeted areas by the end of the project.

HelpAge mobilized, identified, registered and supported 400 OPs (316 female and 84 male) with SME. Out of these 400 beneficiaries, 200 were from Habila, 100 Gobie and 100 Tawanj respectively. 176 OPs were IDPs, 140 OPs returnees and 84 OPs host community. The OP identified were sensitized, guided and supported by the project staff and OPA to develop individual or group business plans. The business plans were analysed, SME synchronized and OPs supported as per the table below.

Table IV: beneficiaries registered and supported and engaged with SME-

#	SME	Loc	Sex			Total	Bef	Category			Age			
			F	M	Ho st			50-59	60-69	70-79	80-89			
1	Butchery shops	Tawanj	4	3	7	35	7	0	0	2	4	0	1	
2	Donkey	Habila	21	0	21	105	19	0	0	7	6	3	5	
3	Donkey carts	Habila	20	0	20	100	11	7	2	8	10	0	2	
4	Donkey carts	Gobie	9	5	14	70	1	1	12	3	0	5	6	
5	Groundnut Sheller	Tawanj	12	2	14	70	0	14	0	0	8	1	5	
6	Goat breeding	Habila	98	17	115	575	40	55	20	3	40	64	8	
7	Goat breeding	Tawanj	48	18	66	330	37	13	16	3	23	17	22	
8	Goat breeding	Gobie	41	21	62	310	15	30	17	0	19	26	17	
9	Grinding Mills	Tawanj	7	7	14	70	0	14	0	0	4	4	6	
10	Grinding Mills	Gobie	10	6	16	80	7	0	9	3	4	5	4	
11	Petty trade	Habila	31	4	35	175	34	2	1	2	22	12	0	
12	Water pump	Gobie	7	1	8	40	1	0	7	1	5	2	0	
13	Wheel barrow	Habila	8	0	8	40	4	4	0	1	2	5	0	
	Totals		316	84	400	2000	176	140	84	33	147	144	76	

These items were distributed through cash grants utilizing a voucher system approach. Suppliers within the respective targeted areas were identified, sensitized on the project and formally

registered to participate. Agreements with clear terms and conditions were signed. Because the suppliers were all from the local markets, through this system, over US\$56,000 was injected in the project operational areas to stimulate the local economy.

By the end of the project, at least 90% of the monitored SME were functional and OPs were happy. The SME that were provided through fair voucher also created peacefully coexistence between farmers and pastoralists/nomads as both farmers and pastoralist traders were identified and supported. In other interventions, pastoralist thought they were deliberately ignored to participate in rural projects and would act in retaliation.

The grinding mill in Tawanj is doing well. There are two market days in Tawanj (Saturdays and Wednesdays). On a good market day they can earn between US\$ 34-42, and in an ordinary day, they earn between US\$ 5-13. This activity involves a group of 14 people. They sit a fortnightly to calculate earnings, and after removing the funds to maintain the machine, and for fuel, they equally divide the other proceedings. On average a member gets around US\$ 15-17 a month which they use to provide for the basic needs of the HH and support the vulnerable person under their care.

Although the goats are delivering at slow pace, out of the 486 goats distributed, 126 had given birth in Tawanj, Gobie and Habila (Analysis of CAWHS monitoring tool). OPs are benefiting from the milk which is good for their health. Goat's milk has high nutritional value as it has higher Butter Fat Content of over 5 % which is ideal for OPs. The benefits are expected to continue into the future as more kids are being born.

The 7 OP's in Tawanj who were supported with 2 oxen for butchery's continued to prosper in their business. They bought 6 more oxen and 31 goats for slaughter. There is one market day in a week in Tawanj and every market day the group slaughters an ox of 90 kilograms making a profit of US\$ 57 that they divide every month. However, the existences of four other competitors who slaughter on the some market day tend to reduce their profit margins.

Since the support wasn't equally provided to the three targeted areas, on average 40 % of the supported OPs increased their incomes, purchasing power and welfare.

VIII Constraints

Constraints and challenges during the project; also Reasons why established goals/targets were not met (if applicable), the impact on the program objective(s), and how the impact has been/will be addressed.

- Delay from the Sudan Government in the approval of the revised Technical Agreement (TA) for the project. Due to changes in the design of the project and additional funding, it was mandatory to make changes in the TA and get the approval of the relevant office. Lengthy negotiations had to take place in Khartoum with Federal HAC with regards to the inclusion of a National NGO in the project given they would not consider the Older People Association (OPA) as a relevant partner. The OPA was finally accepted by HAC, but while they verbally approved the TA at the end of October, a signed copy of the agreement was not delivered to HelpAge until 5th November.
- In November, 2012, HAC informed HelpAge that two of their senior expatriate staff members based in Khartoum would not be granted visas. Fidelis Kangethe's visa was not renewed after more than two years working as Grants and Funding Manager for HelpAge. Sameena Gul, Head of Programmes, was denied a work permit after having joined HelpAge in Khartoum in August 2012. She waited three months for her papers to be approved.
- The expatriate Country Finance Manager (CFM), Benjamin Esau-Mnkono, and Darfur Programme Manager (DPM), Essayas Tatek both left in November, 2012 for personal reasons as they wanted to be closer to their families. The two were later on replaced. The post of CFM

was replaced by the Khartoum based Finance Officer, Abdalla Yagoub, who was appointed CFM in December 2012. He had worked for HelpAge in Khartoum since 2008 January, and had previously worked in our Darfur office for approximately one year. The DPM was recruited and successfully deployed to the field in June 2013.

- The expatriate staff spend a lot of time out of the project area due to difficulties in acquiring work permit, stay visa and travel permits.
- Four national staff members attached to the project and based in our Habila office (Veterinary Officer, Base Coordinator, National Programme Coordinator, and Extension Officer) resigned at the peak of the project and joined CRS for its new program in the same locality which pays higher salaries and better fringe benefits than HelpAge. This was despite salary increase for all HelpAge staff following our participation in a Sudan wide NGO salary survey. Two of the staffs were later on replaced through secondment from Ministry of Agriculture.
- The poultry stock was limited in Habilla, therefore OPA's and traders association had to recommend that we outsource chicken from nearby communities. The Veterinary Officer verified the outsourced chicken which minimized the risk of disease spread.
- The outbreak of the suspected NCD affected the provision of poultry schedule. We had to establish and understand the surveillance of the disease before supplies were effectively made. It was after formal approval of the MoA- Department of Animal Resources and Fisheries giving an assurance of the disease being under control that made us start the distribution.
- It wasn't possible to vaccinate the chicken given to OP's because of bureaucracy in acquiring vaccines in the state. The vaccines were expected to be obtained from FAO through the Ministry of Agriculture (Animal Resources Department). In the FAO major pipelines for 2012, poultry vaccines weren't provided. Efforts will continue to be put in the post project period in lobbying for improved access to veterinary services and animal vaccination by communities in Habila.
- There were some delays in the seed certification by the Federal Seed Services unit. There is only one National Seed Administration Unit, based in Khartoum that is mandated to certify seed in the whole of Sudan. Because of their bureaucracy, it was not easy to organize their travel to Geneina to carry out the tests. This whole process nearly delayed the distribution of seeds. However, certification process was successful completed and seeds distributed on time during the third week of June.
- Comparatively to last year (2012), overall, the rains in Darfur started late and ended early. Not only the groundnuts were affected but other field crops like millet, sorghum, and sesame were too affected. The yields from all these crops are estimated to be below average. Hunger gap is expected to start earlier than expected (February/March).
- The withdrawal of government fuel subsidizes and subsequent doubling up of fuel prices in last two months of the project somewhat impacted on the projects' operations. Prices of basic and other items skyrocketed significantly, and vulnerable OP's households were most affected. This greatly affected the profit margins of those involved in SMEs
- There were two major insecurity incidences in West Darfur that affected Habila field operations in 2013. Unknown armed people attacked UNAMID convey travelling from Geneina to super camp as they were from fetching water. They exchange fire; two UNAMID staffs were killed and one of their cars taken which was later on recovered. A similar incidence happened in Habilla, where again unknown armed people invaded the Habilla National Intelligence Security offices, exchanged fire and caused injuries to two people. They stole a motorbike and burnt National Intelligence Land cruiser car. In Habilla, this greatly affected accessibility to Tawang and Gobei for over a month as Police stopped giving escort and the situation was deemed insecure by HAC and NISS for any operations outside Habila town.

IX Sustainability

- The community structures (OPC and OPA) established, registered and supported by the project will act as both social and economic capital for the OPs. As already done in the project, these structures will continue to advocate for the OPs and support from other service providers.
- The cadres of community 15 volunteers (10 CAHWs and 5 CAEWs) whose capacities were built and effectively participated in the project implementation will continue to support OP's initiatives. The volunteer were linked to MoA and FAO, through these collaborative initiatives FAO will provide some incentive support to enable them to continue providing services. FAO will provide veterinary drugs to these volunteer to render veterinary service on cost sharing basis. The proceeds will be utilized by the volunteer to buy more drugs to continue offering veterinary service.
- At all levels of the implementation, the project engaged the relevant ministries (MoA, and Ministry of Planning and Construction). The MoA seconded two staff to the project whose capacities were built to support the OP friendly livelihoods interventions. These staff will be part of the team that will continue to support and advocate for the OP friendly livelihoods within the locality and the state level.
- Through our Collaborative initiatives with the MoA 23.5 metric tons (millet (8), sesame (2.5), groundnuts (7), and sorghum (7) were given to the community in Habilla Locality. The ministry provided the seed and HAI transport the seeds to Habilla. Since, in the project we didn't have seed provision for other places like Habilla and Tawanj Administrative Units, this was an opportunity to complement and leverage this situation. As the OPA was linked to the MoA, these kinds of avenues of support from MoA will further be utilized by the OPA past the life of the project.
- Especially for SME, at households' level, the supported people worked as a family unit. The household that work as a family unity have realized more impact as they have synergies in the management and sustainability of their SME.
- HelpAge participated in different coordination forums and in particular the Food Security and Livelihoods Cluster coordination meetings at both West Darfur and Khartoum levels. Through these cluster meetings HelpAge would update the members about the project performance, challenges and how handled and lessons learnt. It's in the FSL cluster meetings that stakeholders are abreast with the gaps existing in the sector and recommend remedial actions. With this coordinator approach, HelpAge will continue to advocate for Older People sensitive Food Security Livelihoods programs and continue to lobby for resources to strengthen the recovery efforts in Habila.