

HAD-G-00-01-00041-00
 Food Security & Early Warning Systems
 1st Feb 02 - 30th April 02

Save the Children (UK)

Interim Narrative Report

I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Organisation: Save the Children-UK		Date: May 20, 2002	
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Program Title: Pilot Project to Develop Food Security Monitoring and Early Warning Systems in Somali National Regional State, Ethiopia	
Cooperative Agreement/Grant No: HDA-G-001-01-00041-00	
SCUK ref: OFDA/1204/41/3352	
Country(ies) / Region(s): Ethiopia	
Disaster/Hazard: Food Shortages	
Time Period Covered by Report: 1 February 2002	To: 30 April 2002

Objective 1:

The objective of the pilot phase is to collect baseline information on livelihoods and develop a workable model for food security monitoring that will be built into government capacity throughout the Region in Phase II.

Progress towards achievement of Objective 1:

1. Round II of the HFE baseline assessment exercise was completed towards the end of March 2002. In this round, seven baseline studies were completed, bringing the total number of food economy zone baselines completed under the project to 13.
2. The second training on HFE baseline assessments was completed in mid-February 2002, in which roughly 40 participants from SC-UK, DPPB, NGOs and UN-Agencies were trained. Joint food security monitoring in the Zones, together with the DPPB's Zonal officers has continued, as part of on the job training for the Government staff. Using preliminary food security indicators the second Quarterly Food Security Update for Somali Region, covering the dry (*jilaa*) season, was produced. Following the completion of the baseline work, the dates April 11-14, 2002 were set by the Steering Committee for a stakeholders meeting to sit together and agree on final food security indicators to be monitored for the different food economy zones, as well as joint food security monitoring (SC-UK, DPPB, other Agencies)
3. After the final indicators are agreed upon on April 14, joint food security monitoring will be piloted in six Zones, and in the process community structures for sub-district level monitoring and reporting will be identified.

Resources: Funding from OFDA	
Budget for Objective 1: US\$ 336,494	Expended This period: US\$ 34,545
Cumulative Expenditure to Date: US\$ 296,301.09	Balance: US\$ 40,193.20

II. PROGRAM OVERVIEW

A. Program Goal and Objectives

Goal: To reduce the vulnerability of the Region's population to acute food shortages through improving the Regional capacities to monitor and analyse food insecurity information, and to advocate for appropriate responses. The expected result is the establishment, over a three-year period, of an effective and sustainable food security monitoring system within the Region. Such a system will be based on the established structures of the National Early Warning System; will incorporate baseline information on livelihoods; and will be adapted to a mainly pastoral environment where government structures are weak and security is a problem.

Objective: To collect essential baseline information on livelihoods and develop a workable model for food security monitoring that will be built into government capacity throughout the Region in Phase II.

The activities are:

- To produce detailed baseline profiles of all food economy zones of the Region.
- To improve the capacity of the DPPB to monitor and analyse food security information, and to establish reporting structures from Zonal to Regional level.
- In one pilot Zone, to establish reporting structures from PA to District to Zone, and to familiarise all those involved in the process with basic concepts of early warning.

B. Profile of Targeted Population and Critical Needs

Direct Beneficiaries: Immediate

Initially, the direct beneficiaries will be the users of the information produced by the food security information system. These will include:

- Government and NGOs in Somali Region who will benefit from good quality baseline information on livelihoods of the different food economy groups which will assist them in post-drought recovery and long-term strategic planning.
- Government structures will benefit from improved horizontal and vertical communication and linkages.
- Federal government and international donors who will receive better quality food security information and analysis. This information will be more reliable, will give earlier warning of food insecurity and improved and more appropriate recommendations for response.
- Food security information systems from neighbouring countries sharing borders and populations with Somali Region.

Direct Beneficiaries: within 12 months

- The people of Somali Region – from all livelihood groups. The Somali people will have more input into food security information and intervention; and they will benefit from feedback of useful food security information which they are currently unable to access.
- The people of Somali Region will benefit also from improved programmes that are more appropriate to their felt needs.
- Increased capacity in government and NGOs will enable future programmes to be more sensitive to, and appropriate for, their different needs, and more responsive to negative changes.

Indirect Beneficiaries

- Food security information systems in neighbouring countries which will be able to benefit from a sharing of information within 6 months.
- Pastoralists, agro-pastoralists and planners (internationally). Debate on appropriate response – which will be a key area of work in this programme, and sharing of information on practical experiences of innovative initiatives, will produce a shared body of work documenting global experience.

C. Geographic Location

The program is located in the Somali National Regional State (SNRS), Ethiopia. Program activities are being carried out in all the nine Zones of SNRS, namely Jijiga, Shinile, Fik, Dagahbur, Warder, Korahe, Gode, Afder and Liban. The program headquarters is in Jijiga, the Regional capital, which is located at about 42°45'E and 9°25'N.

III. PROGRAM PERFORMANCE

A. Performance

Performance indicators for the reporting period are classified in the proposal under the headlines: (1) *General*; (2) *Activity 1 (Baselines)*; (3) *Activity 2 (Region & Zonal)*; and (4) *Pilot Zone*.

General

1. The Regional Steering Committee set up to guide project implementation continued to meet, and one meeting was held during the reporting period (in April 08, 2002); the minutes are available. The scheduled monthly meetings for February and March 2002 could not be held because baseline fieldwork was on going.

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Activity 1: To produce detailed baseline profiles of all food economy zones of the Region.

1. As reported earlier, HFE baseline work was conducted in two rounds. Round I was between 16 September and 28 October 2001 while round II was conducted between January 14 to March 14 2002. The HFE baseline exercise consisted of training, fieldwork, analysis and report writing components.
2. Baseline work was completed for six and seven Food Economy Zones (FEZ) in round I and round II, respectively. This is more than the 12 FEZ initially identified. Analysis work is complete and preliminary reports are ready. Draft reports have been distributed to partners for feedback. Final standardised reports are expected to be ready by end of May 2002. Household economy baseline information has been previously lacking in the Region.

The following is the complete list of the FEZs for which reports are available (giving the main crops/livestock species cultivated/reared)

- Shinile Agropastoral (Sorghum, cattle)
- Jijiga Sedentary Farming (sorghum, maize, wheat)
- Lowland Pastoral (Camel, goats and sheep)
- Gode Agropastoral (sorghum, cattle)
- Shabelle Riverine (maize, sorghum)
- Afder Pastoral (camel, goats and sheep)
- Shinile Pastoral (Cattle, sheep, camel)
- Genale-Dawa Riverine (maize, cattle)
- Filtu-Dolo Pastoral (camel, goats, sheep, cattle)
- Moyale-Wayamo Pastoral (camel, cattle goats)
- Liban Agropastoral (cattle, maize, goats)
- Fik Pastoral (camel, goats, sheep)
- Dagahbur Agropastoral (sorghum, cattle, camels)

3. Collaboration was sought for the project implementation using different forums (July-August 2001). As a result, in the baseline work FSAU/FAO-Somalia provided technical support by providing four of its experienced Field Monitors (FM) in round I of the fieldwork and three in Round II. The FMs helped lead baseline assessment teams. WFP provided logistical and financial support while ACF, SC-USA and HCS(in Round 1), provided logistical support for the exercise. Over 60 participants from more than 10 Governmental (GO) and Non-governmental (NGO) organisations took part in Round I and about 40 were involved in Round II. *This wide participation is considered a great achievement, and credit goes to the Regional Sensitisation workshop held earlier in 2001.*

Activity 2: To improve the capacity of the RDPPB to monitor and analyse food security information across the region and to establish reporting structures from Zonal to Regional level.

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- 1) The good working collaboration established with the DPPB continues to be mutually beneficial to the project and the DPPB. DPPB's counterpart technical staff participated in all trainings and baseline assessments.
- 2) The second HFE training and fieldwork was conducted in January to March. This was intended to complete the baseline work, as well as to improve the capacity of the DPPB technical staff to conduct baseline assessments. This training and fieldwork follows another conducted in September-October 2001, and as a result over 50% of the trained DPPB staff were able to lead interviews during round II of baseline work.
- 3) Food Security monthly monitoring reports continue to be generated by the Zonal Food Security Officers using preliminary indicators. Using these reports, the second quarterly food security update was produced to cover up to end of March 2001 and was timed to coincide with the end of the long dry (*jilaa*) season. These reports are not based on final indicators and are still test pilot reports.
- 4) Following the completion of the baseline reports in March, 2002, all concerned stakeholders, have agreed under the auspices of the Steering Committee to sit together and agree on the food security indicators to be monitored regularly for the different livelihood patterns in the Region. A sub-group of the Steering Committee comprising technical personnel from eight organisations (SC-UK, DPPB, SC-USA, WFP, HCS, PCAE, ACF and the Regional Agriculture Bureau) has been constituted for this purpose and will meet between May 11-13 in order to make recommendations on the following:
 - a) To compare and discuss all the different sets of food security indicators currently being monitored by the different GOs and NGOs, in light of the findings of the recently completed baseline work, so as to explore possibilities of coming up with a harmonised set of indicators;
 - b) To recommend a standard set of indicators to be monitored for the different livelihood groups and the design formats for monitoring;
 - c) To discuss and make proposals for joint food security monitoring;
 - d) To discuss and recommend the types of reports (including their timings) to be produced;
 - e) To present the findings and recommendations to the Steering Committee meeting to be held on May 14 2002.

Letters of invitation have been sent out and most members of the sub-group have expressed interest in participating in this discussion.

Activity 3: In one pilot Zone, to establish reporting structures from PA to District to Zone, and to familiarise all those involved in the process with basic concepts of early warning.

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As reported in the last quarter, the plan for the 'pilot Zone' was reviewed, in order to include the views and participation of more organisations and to widen the scope of the piloting exercise.

After the 14th of May, when the Steering Committee discussions on the final indicators will be completed, details for piloting joint food security monitoring will be worked out using the final indicators. Also the selection of community members to be trained on early warning and community-level reporting will be worked out. The number of Zones for which this exercise will be piloted are currently agreed to be six, based on the presence of NGOs that can lead the pilot exercise. The proposed Zones include: Shinile, Korahe, Gode, Afder, Liban, and Warder.

B. Success Stories

So far the work done has not had any visible direct impact on communities and families. However, the DPPB, participating NGOs and UN-Agencies have benefited from the training and have been exposed to an analytical framework (HFE) for the analysis of livelihoods. About 100 participants were trained in the two rounds of the baseline work. The participants have also had first hand experience in using the HFE framework to carry out baseline work. Participants were carefully selected to ensure that this improved capacity is indigenous and likely to benefit the Region in the future.

There was a multi-agency participation in the training and baseline work, with over 10 organisations taking part. The fact that all the organisations participated fully until the completion of the baseline work was an impressive achievement.

Two Quarterly food security updates have been produced using preliminary indicators, despite the fact that final indicators were not ready and that inter-agency collaboration regarding monitoring activities was still poor.

C. Unforeseen Circumstances

A six month no cost extension was requested by the project and granted by your offices. The purpose of the extension is to allow the project to complete the piloting activities outlined during phase I before beginning phase II (years 2 and 3). The completion of these activities is crucial given that the lessons learned through this process serve as the starting point for Phase II of the project. Thus, this report is a quarterly report instead of a final report.

No incidents, including those related to insecurity, have occurred that warranted major changes in planned activities.

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IV. RESOURCE USE / EXPENDITURE

Details of the expenditures are indicated in the accompanying financial report

Terms and Acronyms

ACF	Action Contra la Faim
ECHO	European Community Humanitarian Office
FEZ	Food Economy Zone
FM	Field Monitor (FSAU Field Monitor)
FSAU/FAO	Food Security Assessment Unit of UN-FAO, Somalia
GO	Governmental Organisation
HCS	Hararghe Catholic Secretariat
HFE / HEA	Household Food Economy / Household Economy Analysis
PA	Peasant Association
PCAE	Pastoralist Concern Association Ethiopia (local NGO)
RDPPB / DPPB	Regional Disaster Prevention and Preparedness Bureau
SC-UK	Save the Children - United Kingdom
SC-USA	Save the Children - United States of America
SNRS	Somali National Regional State (of Ethiopia)
WFP	UN - World Food Programme
ZFSO	Zonal Food Security Officers (SC-UK)