

PD-ABX-193

## Save the Children (UK)

### Fourth Quarter Interim Narrative Report

#### I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Organisation: Save the Children-UK	Date: August 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: HA-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 May 2002	To: 31 July 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. After the completion of baseline studies for all the 13 identified food economy zones in Somali Region, a set of proposed food security monitoring indicators was presented to stakeholders in the Steering Committee, on 14 May 2002.
2. The stakeholders (more than 14 NGOs, UN-Agencies, and Government line Bureaus) discussed and agreed-upon final food security indicators. As a result, three monitoring formats were produced (1) Pastoral areas monitoring format, (2) Agropastoral/cropped area monitoring format, and (3) Market monitoring format. It was agreed that these be used in all joint (SC-UK/DPPB/partners) monitoring activities in every Zone (as applicable), in order to have a uniform monitoring and reporting system, region-wide. Assessment/reporting dates were also agreed on.
3. The production of Monthly Food Security Highlights was started in May 2002, following a recommendation by the Steering Committee to start this.
4. Another Quarterly Food Security Update was produced (using both preliminary and final food security indicators) at the end June 2002.
5. A Household Economy Review workshop was held in Jijiga on June 15, 2002. Project work was reviewed, Baselines and FEZ map were presented
6. Preparations for Community level training and reporting were being finalised with FSOs having carried out a participatory survey of existing structures in the Zones and districts. This will be built into Phase II.
7. A training on food security monitoring, monitoring formats and reporting was held in 16-17 June 2002, for SC-UK, DPPB and some NGO staff.

Resources: Co-funding from OFDA and ECHO	
Budget for Objective 1: US\$ 336,494	Expended This period: US\$ 14,431
Cummulative Expenditure to Date: US\$ 311,714	Balance: US\$ 24,780

## 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.

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**III. PROGRAM PERFORMANCE**

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**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. Two meetings were held during the reporting period (May 14 and August 19, 2002); the minutes are available.

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

1. The 'first edition' of the detailed baseline reports for all food economy zones (FEZ) are available for the thirteen FEZs. These were distributed to the DPPB and other stakeholders. Some teams, in the DPPC-led mid-term needs assessment mission conducted in July 2002, used the population proportions of FEZs and wealth groups provided in the baseline reports. It is hoped that in the December assessment, the baseline reports will be more widely used.

The following are the list of the completed baseline reports:

- Shinile Agropastoral (Sorghum, cattle)
- Shinile Pastoral (Cattle, sheep, camel)
- 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)
- 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)

*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.*

1. SC-UK technical staff continue to work with DPPB staff to build capacity: The good working collaboration established with the DPPB continues to be mutually beneficial to the project and the DPPB. DPPB's counterpart technical staff both at Regional and Zonal levels participated in all trainings, baseline assessments, and monthly monitoring activities.
2. Final food security monitoring indicators produced: Following the completion of the baseline work, a set of suggested final food security monitoring indicators were presented to the Steering Committee. The Committee's Technical Group was given the task of discussing and harmonising these indicators with those already being used by other organisations in the different Zones of the Region. Between May 11 and 13, the Technical Group, comprising representatives from 6 stakeholders (DPPB, Livestock/Agriculture Bureau, SC-UK, SC-USA, HCS and WFP) thoroughly discussed these different sets of indicators and came up with a harmonised set of indicators that were summarised in three formats – Pastoral monitoring, Agropastoral/cropped area, and a Market monitoring format. Two other stakeholders PCAE and LVIA could not participate in the harmonisation process but provided their indicators to the Technical

Group during the discussion. These eight organisations are all core members of the Steering Committee and all carry out Food Security monitoring/early warning activities in Somali Region.

3. Final food security monitoring indicators adopted: The harmonised indicators were presented to the Steering Committee on May 14, 2002 and were discussed and approved as the final indicators for food security monitoring for the different livelihood groups (FEZ) in Somali Region. The Steering Committee then passed that these indicators and formats form the basis for all future joint food security monitoring carried out in the Region, starting May 2002.
4. First Monthly Food Security Highlights produced: The production of Monthly Food Security Highlights started in May 2002, following the Steering Committees recommendations. These highlights were as a result of joint monitoring activities in Most Zones, using the final indicators. Another 'Montly' was produce at the end of July 2002 and this will continue every month, except when the 'Quarterly' is due. This report assisted the DPPC-led mid-terms needs assessment in June 2002 by providing a general overview of the food security situation and pointing out areas of concern.
5. Training on monitoring indicators conducted: One training on the final food security monitoring indicators was held in June 16-17, 2002 for the SC-UK FSOs, DPPB counterparts and some NGO Staff. In this training the Food Security monitoring formats for pastoral and agropastoral FEZs, as well as the market monitoring formats were introduced and rehearsed. Effective and efficient reporting systems were also discussed.
6. Quarterly Food Security Update for June produced: One Quarterly Food Security Update covering April-June period was produced at the end of June 2002. This report covered food security issues during the quarter for the whole Region. Information for this report was gathered using final indicators, except for the month of April 2002.
7. Household Economy Review Workshop conducted: The Household Economy Review workshop was held in Jijiga on 15 June 2002, with participation from all the Zones, including DPPB, DPPD (zonal), NGOs and UN-Agencies and the livestock/agriculture Bureau. The workshop reviewed project progress, dicsussed collaboration especially among partners and the DPPB. There were also presentations of the final monitoring formats and the baseline work including the new FEZ map for Somali Region.

*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.*

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.

The initial plan in the proposal was to select, with the help of the Steering Committee, one Pilot Zone and to start by identifying a specified number of PA/Community leaders from this Zone. These people would then be trained on Early Warning, indicator monitoring concepts and reporting. They would then collect information and regularly report on identified food security indicators from Community to Woreda level. The Regional Steering Committee has agreed to make some changes on the process of piloting community-level reporting. Therefore the number of pilot Zones to select, the degree of participation of partner agencies, and the process of identifying the community members to be trained for the purpose, have all been reviewed.

In order to achieve this, guidelines were given to the SC-UK Zonal Food Security Officers in June 2002, to help them collect information on existing structures in food security in each Zone of the Region. They have consulted government departments and organisations in their respective Zones. Based on this and their knowledge of the Zones and community structures within their respective Zones, they have sent in reports (end of July 2002) regarding these issues. These reports have been summarised and will be presented to the Steering Committee in its August 2002 meeting (planned for 19 August). The reports will form the basis for the extensive district and sub-district level trainings that are planned in Phase II of the project (provided in the "phase II activities" document that was distributed).

## **B. Success Stories**

During the quarter the major success was the development of the final food security indicators for the different FEZs, the harmonisation of indicators among the different stakeholders and the adoption of similar formats for the entire Region. SC-UK, the DPPB and most other NGOs/UN-agencies in the Region are already involved in joint monthly monitoring activities and are submitting reports regularly. Details of working together, like drawing up memorandum of understanding among the different partners have still not been drawn.

Again, like the baseline work the multi-agency participation in this process was encouraging.

## **C. Unforeseen Circumstances**

During the Quarter, no new incidents, including those related to insecurity, have occurred, that warranted major changes in planned activities.

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**IV. RESOURCE USE / EXPENDITURE**

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Details of the expenditures are indicated in the accompanying financial report

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**LIST OF NEW OUTPUTS THAT ARE AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST**

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1. Minutes of the Steering Committee for May are available, including the minutes of the Technical Group of the Steering Committee Meeting in May 2002.
2. Food Security Monitoring formats for Pastoral, Agropastoral/cropped area and Market Price Monitoring formats.
3. Monthly food security highlight for May and July 2002.
4. Quarterly food security update for (April-June 2002)
5. First Edition of the Baseline Reports for all the 13 Food Economy Zones or Executive Summaries.

## Terms and Acronyms

ACF	Action Contra la Faim
ECHO	European Community Humanitarian Office
FEZ	Food Economy Zone
HCS	Hararghe Catholic Secretariat
HEA	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)
DPPD	Disaster Prevention and Preparedness Department (zonal)
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
LVIA	Lay Volunteers International