

Save the Children (UK)

Final Narrative Report

I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Organisation: Save the Children - UK	Date: January 31, 2003
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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- 00-01-00041-00	
SCUK ref: OFDA/1204/41/3352	
Country(ies) / Region(s): Ethiopia	
Disaster/Hazard: Food Shortages	
Time Period Covered by This Report: 1 May 2001	To: 30 October 2002

Objective:

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. Detailed Household Economy (HEA) baseline reports were produced for all 13 identified Food Economy Zones (FEZ) of the Region. This was done in two rounds – in September/October 2001 and January-March 2002. Reports have been disseminated to many stakeholders.
2. In order to improve the capacity of the DPPB to monitor and analyse food security information, and to establish reporting structures from Zonal to Regional Level, SC-UK recruited and deployed all the technical staff in mid-August 2001. The Regional DPPB has deployed key technical staff to be counterparts to the SC-UK team. Trainings have been conducted to improve the ability of the DPPB and partners to collect, analyse and report on baseline information as well as regular food security monitoring and early warning. The trained DPPB and DPPD staff participated in completing the baseline studies and some continue to participate in the production of the Monthly and Quarterly food security reports.
3. The selection of a pilot zone in which to conduct community-level training on food security and early warning and data collection was reviewed following deliberations by the Steering Committee. Following this review, a survey of existing food security structures was carried out in preparation for the district and sub-district level training and reporting was completed in July, 2002.

Resources: Co-funding from OFDA and ECHO

Budget for Objective 1: US\$ 336,494

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, agropastoralists 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, Degahbur, Warder, Korah, Gode, Afder and Liban. The program headquarters is in Jijiga, the regional capital, which is located at about 09 22 N and 42 48 E

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*. Progress and results towards the achievement of these is reported under each of the activities below:

A. General

1. A project implementation agreement has been signed between SC-UK and Regional Government (DPPB) in May 2001.
2. A Regional Steering Committee for the project was constituted in July 2001. The Committee's terms of reference includes guiding the project implementation, coordination of stakeholders, contingency planning,

analysis and advocacy of appropriate interventions at all stages of the drought cycle. The members are drawn from the various stakeholders in the Region – DPPB, NGOs, and UN-Agencies. General membership is for any organisation working in areas related to Food Security and Early Warning, but there are 14 core members (namely DPPB, SC-UK, SC-USA, ACF, HCS, WFP, UN-EUE, UNICEF, OWDA, PCAE, OXFAM-GB, and Govt Bureaus of Water, Health and Agriculture. The head of the Regional DPPB chairs the Committee, and the SC-UK Technical Co-ordinator is the secretary. The Steering Committee has been meeting monthly, except when intensive baseline survey activities and other national-level joint assessments are on-going. Minutes of all the meetings of the Steering Committee are available.

3. An international security expert carried out a security assessment in May 2001 and produced security guidelines specifically for the project. The report is available and recommendations have been implemented.
4. A need assessment for the project was done in July 2001, and capital items were ordered. However, because of a brief delay in signing the project agreement and the long procurement procedures, vehicles were received only in mid 2002, while HF radios have not yet been received, but expected to be received in the first half of 2003.
5. A technical review of the project/Evaluation is underway and a consultant has been identified. The review is expected to be completed by January 2003. The delay in the review process was caused by several factors including a no-cost request for the project and postponements related to finding a convenient date for all stakeholders that would be participating in the evaluation (This is documented in the minutes of the Steering Committee meetings of August-December 2002).

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

1. A Regional familiarisation workshop for decision-makers was held on March 13-14, 2001. Over 60 participants from more than 20 organisations took part. All participating stakeholders were introduced to the proposed Food Security monitoring and Early Warning project and a provisional Food Economy Map for Somali Region was produced. The provisional map and the workshop report are available upon request.
2. Two international HEA experts, one from SC-UK's Food Security Unit and the other from FSAU/FAO-Somalia, were contracted, to provide external technical support as lead trainers for the baseline exercise. In addition, seven experienced Field Monitors (FM) from FSAU/FAO-Somalia were involved in leading assessment teams during the two rounds of the baseline work. The two international HEA experts were involved in both rounds of the baseline work, while a total of seven FSAU FMs were involved in round 1 and 2 of the baseline work (see point (4) below on baseline rounds).

3. Secondary information was gathered from WFP, the former South-East Rangelands Project (SERP), SC-UK, USAID/FEWS, Government and other sources between May and August 2001, in readiness for the baseline work. Relevant portions were incorporated in the baseline reports.
4. Household Economy (HEA) Baseline work was completed for all 13 identified Food Economy Zones (FEZ) by March 2002. The exercise was done in two rounds. Round 1 was conducted between September 16 and October 29, 2001, while round 2 was conducted between January 19 and March 14, 2002.

Each of the rounds of the baseline work involved 7-10 days classroom training and 3 weeks of fieldwork, analysis and report writing. The trainees involved 14 SC-UK staff, 12 DPPB staff, and one or two staff members from other government line Bureaus, NGOs and UN-Agencies. In the first round over 60 participants were trained and participated in the baseline work, while in the second round about 40 (including some who were in round 1) were trained.

The outcome of this workshops and fieldworks was 13 HEA baseline reports for 13 identified FEZs and a final food economy Map for Somali Region. These reports were disseminated to a number of stakeholders including USAID, ECHO, DPPC, DPPB (Regional), FEWS, Steering Committee member organisations, and are available to other interested stakeholders. Reports were produced for the following thirteen FEZs:

- 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)
- Dawa-Ganale Riverine (maize, cattle)
- Filtu-Dolow Pastoral (camel, goats, sheep, cattle)
- Moyale-Wayamo Pastoral (camel, cattle goats)
- Liban Agropastoral (cattle, maize, goats)
- Fik Pastoral (camel, goats, sheep)
- Degahbur Agropastoral (sorghum, cattle, camels)

The gap between the two rounds of the baseline work was longer than anticipated because it fell in November-December 2001, when the National Multi-Agency assessment was being conducted (many of the baseline participants were also participating in this assessment mission). The Muslim Ramadan celebration also coincided with this period (the participants were virtually all Muslim), and there was also a need to give the trainers and team leaders more time to prepare drafts of the first set of six baseline reports. This longer gap meant that all baseline reports could not be produced in month 9 (January 2001) as anticipated, and drafts were

only ready after month 11 (March 2002). As a result, there were also delays in subsequent activities.

5. Collaboration was sought for project implementation using different forums (starting from July 2001), and with the help of the DPPB. As a result, in the baseline work FSAU-Somalia extended technical support by providing seven of its experienced Field Monitors to help lead baseline assessment teams. WFP provided logistical and financial support while ACF, SC-USA and HCS provided logistical support for the exercise. Other stakeholders provided participants in the training and fieldwork.
6. 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, discussed issues of collaboration with the project, 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 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. The expatriate Technical Coordinator reported in May 2001. The Field Coordinator, Trainer/Analyst and the nine Zonal Food Security Officers (FSO) were appointed and deployed in August 2001. The Regional DPPB appointed counterpart staff in September 2001, at both Regional and Zonal levels to work together with the SC-UK deployed personnel (Two in the Region and one in each of the nine Zones).

One FSO was deployed in each of the nine Zones of the Region and they were responsible for food security monitoring and early warning activities, together with the DPPB counterpart staff and staff from other interested organisations at Zonal/District levels.

2. User Survey conducted: The project's Technical Coordinator and a newly recruited SC-UK Food Security Advisor for Amhara Region (Ethiopia) conducted a Food Security/Early warning information user survey in Addis Ababa. This survey was carried out to assess the information of needs of various stakeholders, to get government expectations on the FS/EW systems in Somali/Amhara regions, and to collect baseline data against which the Somali and Amhara Early Warning Projects may be later evaluated. The survey report is available upon request.
3. A good working relationship has been established with the Regional DPPB. The DPPB has identified key technical staff to work together with the SC-UK team at both Regional and Zonal levels. The DPPB has also facilitated acquisition of work permits/visas for the projects international staff, consultants, and the duty free importation of capital items. DPPB

counterpart staff continue to participate in and benefit from all the trainings, baseline assessments, and monthly monitoring activities offered by the project.

4. Provisional indicators for food security monitoring were compiled, discussed and agreed upon, for the different (provisional) food economy zones. An Early Warning Orientation workshop was held in late August 2001, to introduce the newly recruited project staff and DPPB counterpart staff to the project objectives, activities, and expected outputs. Also the concepts and importance of Food Security monitoring and early warning were explored. The FSOs were also provided with guidelines for regular food security monitoring using the provisional indicators.
5. Provisional Indicators used to produce Food Security Status Reports: FSOs started using the provisional indicators to carry out food security monitoring activities and sending in monthly field reports from September 2001. Two Quarterly updates using this provisional indicators were produced – one covering September-November 2001 and the other in December 2001-March 2002.
6. Final food security monitoring indicators produced and adopted: 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 monitoring", and "Market monitoring" formats. Two other stakeholders PCAE and LVIA could not participate in the harmonisation process but provided their suggestions 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.

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 to be carried out in Somali Region, starting May 2002.

7. 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, including reporting and fieldwork schedules.

8. Final Indicators used to produce Quarterly and Monthly Food Security Highlights: In addition to the Quarterly Food Security Updates already being produced (initially using provisional indicators), production of Monthly Food Security Highlights was started in May 2002, following the Steering Committees recommendations. The reports are based on the monthly field reports from the FSOs (and partners in some Zones). These reports have so far been useful to decision-makers. For example, it has assisted the DPPC-led mid-term needs assessment in June 2002 by providing a general overview of the food security situation and pointing out areas of concern.
9. HEA Theory and Practice Workshops (Round I and II) conducted: A major training on food security concepts and Household Food Economy Analysis (HEA) was conducted in September/October 2001. This training formed the basis for Round I of the household economy baseline work that was conducted in which 6 baseline studies were completed. The training, consisting of classroom and fieldwork components was conducted for the project staff, counterpart DPPB technical staff and for several interested organisations working in the region (UN-Agencies, local and international NGOs, and government line Bureaus). The total number of participants was about 60 persons. The training was the first major capacity building exercise for DPPB and other partners.

A second and similar round of training was conducted in January-February 2002. About 40 participants, including some from Round I, participated in this round. This training formed the basis for Round II of the baseline work in which 7 baseline studies were completed.

Having received the training, about 50% of the DPPB staff are able to lead HEA baseline assessments. Household economy baseline information has been previously lacking in the Region. A complete list of the baseline reports is given under "*Activity 1 (4)*" above.

10. 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 staffs both at Regional and Zonal levels (who were already trained in HEA methodology and food security monitoring) continued to participate in joint monthly monitoring activities with SC-UK field staff and partners. Through the joint monitoring and reporting, staff of both the Regional and Zonal Disaster Prevention and Preparedness Bureau and Departments as well as partner staff are gaining useful skills in food security monitoring, analysis and reporting. It is hoped that this improved capacity will remain within the Region and the different Zones and will continue to be useful to the cause of Food Security Monitoring and EW activities even after the project ends. However, the participation of

DPPB/D staff is not regular in some Zones mainly due to insufficient budgetary allocations by the government.

Other Activities

Advocating for the utilisation of the Household Economy Baseline reports for the purpose of food security assessments and to guide long-term development is on going. Save the Children-UK is already incorporating the findings of the baseline studies in formulating long term food security strategy in Somali Region. The National Assessment missions led by the DPPC have already made use of the baseline reports in coming up with estimations of needy populations.

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.

Initially, 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 for training. 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/district level. The Regional Steering Committee agreed to make some changes on the process of piloting and community-level reporting and this has been reported in previous reports to the donors. 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.

The review was prompted by the fact that there are a number of organisations that have received funding for setting up Early Warning systems in their respective Zones of operation within Somali Region and there was a need to involve all of them and to avoid duplication of efforts. These organisations include ACF in Koraha Zone, SC-USA in Gode and Afder Zones, PCAE in Afder and Liban Zones and HCS in Shinile Zone. The idea is to tap into the existing NGO potential in each of these Zones and to see ways of building on existing structures for the district and sub-district level training and reporting.

In light of this review, Guidelines were given to the SC-UK Zonal Food Security Officers in June 2002 to help them assess the existing early warning and food security monitoring structures within the Region in consultation with the Zonal DPPD and other stakeholders. The aim was to establish the nature, scope and efficiency of these existing structures and whether the planned extensive training plan can build on these structures or not. A summary of the findings of these assessments was compiled by July 31, 2002 and presented to the Steering Committee in its August 19

2002 meeting. The findings of this assessment are being used to plan for the district, sub-district and community levels trainings.

A training team was recruited by the end of the grant period to carry out the district and sub-district training plan envisaged in Phase II of the project. A training consultant has also been identified and will take this process forward.

B. Success Stories

1. 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 phase I of the baseline work and that they were enthusiastic to participate in phase II is an impressive achievement.
2. The DPPB and participating NGOs and UN-Agencies have benefited from the training and have been exposed to an analytical framework (HEA) for the analysis of livelihoods. They have also had first hand experience in applying this framework to carry out baseline work. The participants were carefully selected to ensure that this improved capacity is indigenous and likely to benefit the Region in the future.
3. The monthly and Quarterly reports have so far been useful in guiding decision makers, like the Regional Government and Federal DPPC in prioritising the allocation of resources. In the July 2002 national assessment, the monthly reports guided the DPPC-led joint assessments in identifying problem areas. The baseline reports have also been used by the assessment teams to estimate populations in need of assistance.
4. In the last quarter of 2002, the DPPB and SC-UK, together with UNICEF and WFP, have held joint planning of early warning activities. This planning looked into the possibility of harmonising the DPPB activities with those of SC-UK and UNICEF.
5. The Regional Government allocated 2million Ethiopian Birr for the DPPB for food security monitoring and early warning activities for the 2002/2003 fiscal year. These funds are expected to help improve regular monitoring, supervision of Zonal early warning staff, and training activities. This is expected to boost collaboration between the DPPB and the SC-UK in the implementation of the project.

C. Unforeseen Circumstances

The gap between the two rounds of the baseline assessment studies was longer than anticipated because of a number of reasons - (1) to give more time for analysis/write-up of the first set of baselines, (2) to allow for the participating organisations to take part in the National Annual Needs Assessment, which took place between November and December 2001,

and (3) to give the participants (who were virtually all Muslim) time off to celebrate the holy month of Ramadan, which also occurred between November and December 2001. This delay also caused a small delay in the reporting on final monitoring indicators.

This and other delays (mostly related to communication, and convening of meetings of stakeholders) were responsible for the non-completion of some of the activities planned for in Phase I. This has prompted the no-cost extension request made to the OFDA for this grant.

There were no other incidents that occurred that warranted major changes in planned activities. Potential insecurity which restricted the ability of expatriate staff to stay overnight in some villages were foreseen and therefore contingency plans were put in place

IV. RESOURCE USE / EXPENDITURE

Details of the expenditures are indicated in the accompanying financial report

LIST OF PUBLICATIONS THAT ARE AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST

1. Minutes of the Steering Committee
2. Security Guidelines for the Project Implementation
3. Food Security/Early Warning Information User Survey
4. Food Security Reports (using both provisional and final indicators)
5. Regional Familiarisation workshop proceedings
6. Provisional FEZ map (March 2001)
7. Baseline reports (already sent to USAID)
8. Final FEZ map (May 2002)
9. User Survey report
10. Monthly Food Security Highlights (May, July, August and October 2002)
11. Quarterly Food Security Updates (November 2001, March 2002, June 2002, September 2002)

Terms and Acronyms	
ACF	Action Contra la Faim
ECHO	European Community Humanitarian Organisation
EW	Early Warning
FDPPC /DPPC	Federal Disaster Prevention and Preparedness Commission
FEWS	Famine Early Warning Systems (USAID)
FS	Food Security
FS/EW	Food Security Monitoring and Early Warning
FSAU	Food Security Assessment Unit - Somalia (FAO)
HCS	Hararghe Catholic Secretariat
HEA / HEA	Household Food Economy Analysis/Approach
OWDA	Ogaden Welfare and Development Association
OXFAM-GB	OXFAM-Great Britain
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
SERP	South East Rangelands Project
SNRS	Somali National Regional State (of Ethiopia)
UN-EUE	United Nations - Emergency Unit for Ethiopia
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
Woreda (amharic)	District
WFP	UN - World Food Programme
ZFSO	Zonal Food Security Officers (SC-UK)