



**JUBA VALLEY
DROUGHT RECOVERY PROJECT
SOUTHERN SOMALIA**

ANNUAL PERFORMANCE REPORT

October 1, 2006 – September 30, 2007

For

**THE UNITED STATES AGENCY
FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

OFFICE OF FOREIGN DISASTER ASSISTANCE

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Submitted by:

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ANNUAL PROGRAM UPDATE REPORT

REPORTING PERIOD **October 1, 2006– September 30, 2007**

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Program Goal: Save human lives and reduce vulnerability to future droughts by restoring, improving and diversifying livelihood strategies.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

At the time of this Annual Report, WCDO is glad to report that there have been many changes in the political, economic and social fronts in Somalia. On the political front, many things have happened in the last year, chief among them being the routing out of the Islamists from most of their strongholds in Somalia by the combined forces of Ethiopian and Federal Transition Government (TFG) troops. While the march from Baidoa, Jowhar, Beletweyne, Afmadow and other major towns was quite an easy task, the battle of Mogadishu proved a bit more challenging. By the end of February, Mogadishu had fallen to the TFG. After the fall, the TFG did not move to the capital because of the remnants of the Islamic Courts Union (ICU) that still lurked in the neighborhoods and kept on engaging the government troops. Secondly, the infighting within the TFG prevented consolidation of the gains that the government had actually made. This weakened the government further and it became vulnerable to the scattered Islamists who quickly regrouped and began an open confrontational campaign with the government. Since then, Mogadishu has been insecure, and frequent fighting and displacement of the people have been regular features of the news emanating from there.

Despite all this, the TFG managed to organize a national peace and reconciliation conference in Mogadishu. Although it was cancelled twice as a result of threats by the Islamists to disrupt the conference, it eventually went on peacefully, resulting in the first

meeting in many years where Somalis from different clans have sat down together to discuss the future of the country. With the goodwill enjoyed by the TFG, this conference is expected to begin the national healing process.

On the climatic front, the month of November 2006 witnessed some of the most devastating floods seen in recent times. The flooding of the Jubba River brought with it massive displacement, loss of human lives and destruction of property of unestimated value. The riverine communities, especially those of the West Bank, were most affected by the floods. A total of 25 villages were affected directly in the WCDO project site; seven of them were completely submerged by the floodwaters. People sought refuge along the river embankments and higher grounds, and others left the area and went to areas as far away as Kismayo and Afmadow.

Economically, the area did well compared to the previous periods where it has been experiencing drought. This year, the area has been receiving adequate amounts of rainfall and, apart from the flooding, the weather has been favorable for both the farmers and the pastoralists. From the Food Security Analysis Unit – Somalia (FSAU) July 2007 reports, the area has moved from Humanitarian Emergency status to an Acute Livelihood level. This means the area has not been under life-threatening emergency status to warrant the movement of relief supplies, but the area needs stabilization as far as the livelihood levels are concerned. The levels of malnutrition drastically fell during the period from a high of Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM) of greater than 23% to current levels of 14% this year (FSAU July 07 report). The farmers have reported a bumper harvest and therefore there have been no food distributions in the area. Maize, cowpeas, simsim and other cereal crops have been doing very well.

The program side has proceeded quite well. During this reporting period, WCDO has rehabilitated 11 wells and five water pans, and conducted four community trainings, resulting in 275 participants being trained on well maintenance and rehabilitation and proper plant husbandry.

In general, the project had a successful year where the objectives were met and even surpassed. We are grateful for the relative peace which prevailed in the area compared to the previous period.

PROGRAM PERFORMANCE UPDATE:

Objective #1: Improve sustainable access to water for human consumption and support of livelihood strategies.

Geographic areas of activity: Middle and Lower Juba Valley (west bank), Southern Somalia

Number/Type of Beneficiaries Targeted: Approximately 45,000 people, primarily pastoralist and agro- pastoralist.

Amounted Requested for the Objective: \$231,424

Estimated costs per beneficiary: \$5.14

Expected Result 1.1 Increase sustainable access to clean water for human consumption and household use.

Indicators:

- 1..1 25 shallow wells improved or constructed with community participation in 10 communities.
- 1..2 Access to sufficient clean water for drinking, washing, cooking and other household uses increased by 25% among the targeted population.
- 1..3 Women and girls in the targeted areas are spending 20% less time per day collecting water for household use.
- 1.2.1 Five new water pans ensure year-round access to water for up to 25,000 animals.
- 1.2.2 80 local leaders organized into CDCs are actively building social structures and relationships for prevention, mitigation and reconciliation of resource-related conflict.

Planned activities for the year.

1. 11 wells and 5 water pans to be rehabilitated
2. Training of CDCs, Water Committees and Community Motivators
3. Community sensitization
4. Monitoring
5. Local authority update.

Achievements

Well Rehabilitation

During this period, 11 wells were rehabilitated in the eight villages of Arwamale, Hargeisayare, Buloshidad, Gandobyle, Bardele, Marere, Bulosheikh and Debeile. The villages of Hargeisayare, Marere and Buloshidad each hosted two new rehabilitated wells due to the larger population in the above villages. The other five had one well each. These wells are mostly used for



A woman draws water from a rehabilitated well in Bardere as an elder looks on

domestic purposes. The wells were in bad shape due to years of heavy use and neglected maintenance; secondly, a number of the wells had suffered damage from previous years of heavy flooding which has continued to hit the area. As a result, some rings were dislocated or caved in, and others had collapsed completely. In most cases, the apron area was damaged and some of the wells remained unused for many years; therefore, a major effort was invested to bring them up to functional standards. Much effort was put into draining and deepening the wells to gain access to a fresh aquifer. Residents had to draw their water from the Jubba River, exposing them to waterborne diseases and crocodile attacks. The villages had not had good sanitary practices, resulting in an outbreak of acute watery diarrhea (AWD) which claimed the life of one child. After this happened, the water committees mobilized the community to clean up their surroundings and dispose of waste matter in designated areas. The committees also intensified the chlorination of the wells to prevent further outbreaks of AWD. The 11 rehabilitated wells are now serving a total of 14,500 households.

Water Pan Rehabilitation

The major activity during the year was the rehabilitation of the five water pans in the villages of Hargeisayare Goan, Huslka/Diinley, Bilisa, Dacagedy and Matanah. The work involved digging the water pans to a depth of five feet, with slanted sides. The bed of the water pan was thoroughly compressed to improve the water retention capacity. The waiting station area for the livestock was also enlarged.



A rehabilitated water pan in Diinley collecting rain water for livestock use

During the flooding, the pans had been buried with silt and other debris such as wood and boulders, and some had been overgrown with trees. During the rehabilitation, the pastoralists were on hand to direct the excavator as to how the design of the pan should be constructed in order to avoid the previous disasters of walls caving in and being washed away. Proper drainage and stronger wall construction were emphasized this time, as these components will determine how well the pans will hold up in case there is flooding in the area again.

The design of the water pan followed the original design, except the circumference was widened and the holding area was deepened.

The pans are strategically located in the pastoralist grazing routes, which means the pastoralists have been spared their long distance trek of taking their livestock to water. The total number of livestock that is benefiting from the water pan rehabilitation is estimated at 20,000 animals. The pastoralists have been very grateful for this project and have committed to protect the shoulders of the water pans from destruction by the livestock.

The five water pan committees were active on-site, helping direct the excavation process. Since the actual excavation was completed, they have been meeting on a biweekly basis to organize the usage and discuss how to avoid activities that might contribute to the silting of the pan. They are grateful because the animals do not have to travel long distances to water points, now that water is available within their villages. This will improve the weight of the animals, hence fetching better prices when sold. When the animals have enough water, it also improves their milk supply.

Water Chlorination

Early this year, the Water Committees, in conjunction with WCDO and UNICEF, conducted a very extensive chlorination campaign and treated more than 46 wells. This is because an outbreak of Acute Watery Diarrhea was reported in the villages of Marere, Kalanje and Jalle jogso, and some neighboring villages. The reports indicated that three persons died due to severe diarrhea and others were in serious condition at MSF-Holland Marere health facility. Fortunately, the illness was contained and what could have been an epidemic was brought under control, thanks to all the committees and stakeholders who participated in the chlorination campaign. After the chlorination, there was a change in the water quality, which gave the communities confidence to use the water that had been treated.

Community Sensitization

The community sensitization covered 15 villages including Bullosheik, Marerey, Kalanje, Hargeisayare, Gandobyle, Shangara, Shidle, Bardele, Buloshidad, Aminey, Makayuni, Awramale, Jallejogso, Gududey and Debeiyle. During the sensitization campaigns, large gatherings participated, including women, youth, local leadership and traditional elders. In each of the targeted villages, the objectives of the program were explained to social group gatherings. They were encouraged to fully participate in the project implementation activities and were informed of what was expected from them as their community contribution. The importance of community motivators and their selection criteria was also discussed and agreed upon.

Community Participation

The local villagers have been involved in all stages of the project process, for example, the labor arrangements, keeping of the well rehabilitation materials and equipment, food and drink provision to the laborers and provision for storing the rehabilitation materials and equipment. They also supervised the artisans working on the wells. They made sure that the local village residents, by working closely with the skilled artisans, also learned some of the skills.



A woman prepares to lock one of the wells that had been rehabilitated in Hargeisayare

Community Training

Thirty-three members of Village Water Rehabilitation Committees were trained on the following topics: Theoretical sessions on safe water use, hygiene and sanitation, hand pump installation and repair, demonstration on how to use chlorine when treating the wells, measuring the water column, assessment of participants' awareness of hygiene and sanitation, how to avoid contamination and prevent cholera and other water-borne diseases, hygiene promotion techniques, and how to conduct field visits or household visits to investigate hygiene practices followed by identification of areas necessary for improvement. Since these workshops have been conducted, there has been a change of attitude, especially on safe sanitary practices.

Local authority update



The new local authority has been very supportive since they came into power late last year. They have participated in nearly all discussions. In the areas of hiring skilled labor, they have been able to assist as well as recommend suppliers for project materials. As is WCDO's normal practice, the local administration is kept informed of the major activities of the project. This is to enable them to play their role of advice and conflict resolution. WCDO reports

A session with the council of elders during one of the local authority updates in Marerey

that the local administration has provided the required support to move this process ahead. A courtesy call was made to the Jilib District Commissioner and it inspired the administration to invite WCDO to also intervene in the areas of Education and IDP resettlement. However the WCDO team informed the District Commissioner that our main area of focus in the Jilib District has been in the area of water and sanitation, health and food security.

Objective #2: Increase food security through increased diversity in the diet.

Expected Result 2.1: Vegetables become a significant addition to the diet of participating families

Geographic area of activity: Middle and Lower Juba Valley

Number/type of beneficiaries (individuals targeted): 1,000

Period of activity: 12 months

Amount requested for this objective: **\$122,067**

Indicators:

2.1 200 vulnerable participants are trained and equipped to cultivate kitchen gardens.

2.2 Participating families are consuming vegetables three or more times per week during normal times.

Achievements

Kitchen Gardens

During this reporting period, ten kitchen gardens were established in Hargeisayare, Bullosheik, Marerey, Kalanje, Bashir Malambo, Kamdada, Gududey, Aminey, Jalle Jogso and Gumeyini. The vegetables grown include tomatoes, onions, carrots, and capsicum. These gardens are currently being used as a training ground where the community will learn and then transfer the knowledge to their farms. A number of families are currently practicing what they have learned from the demonstration kitchen gardens. From a random assessment that was carried out, it was discovered that families are beginning to include green vegetables in their diet. In a sample of 50 households, 33 households responded that four times in a week they are consuming at least a diet containing vegetables (onions, carrots, spinach, capsicum and tomatoes). The same respondents confirmed that previously they were only consuming these types of vegetables once week.

The success of the kitchen gardens can be seen in the fact that now most of the gardens in seven villages have vegetables planted in them. The kitchen garden concept is being replicated in numerous farms, as reported by WCDO field staff in their field visit assessments.

Community Training:

45 community motivators from the ten targeted villages were trained on better plant husbandry. The training took three days. The first two days centered on self-discovery, challenges and what can be done to alleviate and mitigate the problems, which they identified. Chief among these were the problems of hunger, malnutrition, flooding and water-borne diseases. On the issue of hunger and malnutrition, the participants were able to identify that if the body is well fed with the right food, it will be able to resist a lot of diseases. Prior to setting up the kitchen gardens, WCDO conducted a brain-storming session on which food are rich in nutrients.

On the third day, practical sessions were held at Kalanje village, which had the best laid out kitchen garden. The participants were shown how to prepare kitchen gardens, sow the seeds, protect and nurture the seeds, transplant or thin, weed control, harvest, storage and use. Four topics were covered during the training, including:

- Who are we? (Self discovery)
- Problem identification
- Demonstration on proper plant husbandry
- Community ownership

After the training, the community motivators shared their training experiences with other village members; they motivated a total of 275 people to understand the importance of vegetables in their diets. The vegetables introduced were tomatoes, bulb onions, kales/cabbages, capsicum and carrots. All are rich in vitamins. After the training, the participants were given a total of 200 kawawas (traditional hoes) to be used in the demonstration plots.

The following are the number of the people trained by the community motivators

Villages	Participants
<u>Hargeisayare</u>	<u>40</u>
<u>Jalle Jogso</u>	<u>30</u>
<u>Makayuni</u>	<u>20</u>
<u>Bulosheikh</u>	<u>20</u>
<u>Dabeiyle</u>	<u>20</u>
<u>Bardere</u>	<u>10</u>
<u>Moblin</u>	<u>25</u>
<u>Aminey</u>	<u>10</u>
<u>Awramale</u>	<u>10</u>
<u>Marere</u>	<u>40</u>
<u>Kalanje</u>	<u>30</u>
<u>Gumeyini</u>	<u>20</u>
TOTAL	<u>275</u>

1.1 Project Cumulative Summary

	Project Activities	Planned activity during project life	Cumulative Achieved
1.	Wells Rehabilitation	25 Wells	11
2.	Water pan Rehab	5 water pans	5
3.	Community trainings	5	3
4.	Kitchen gardens	10	10

1.2 Cumulative Project Beneficiaries

	Project Component	Target Project Beneficiary Population	Cumulative Beneficiary Numbers
1.	Wells Rehabilitation	45,000 people	14,500 people
2.	Water pans Rehab	25,000 animals	20,000 animals

Constraints

- The escalation of roadblocks has been a real hindrance to the movement of the project supplies to the site. It results in extortions and general delay in delivery of the inputs.
- The value of the dollar has drastically gone down without affecting the costs of goods. Interestingly, the cost of goods remains rather the same despite the value going down. The volatility of the oil markets has greatly destabilized local prices, which have gone up as high as \$2 per liter. Currently it has resulted in the price of fuel shooting up, which has impacted project inputs.
- The rains that pounded the area during the period created a logistical nightmare. This is attributed to the fact that the area is prone to flooding and therefore any small amount of rain in the higher regions complicated the situation.

Lessons Learned

The communities are ready to learn if they are given clear direction and guidance at the onset of the program. Their roles and responsibilities need to be spelled out quite clearly during the initiation of the program in their villages; when they know what is expected of them, WCDO feels confident that they will work with the program to its completion.

The communities clearly understand their needs. During one of the training sessions on the needs assessment, they clearly isolated and prioritized their needs. This is an important lesson for the future when designing the program.