



SOMALIA LIVELIHOODS SUPPORT (SOLIS)

ANNUAL REPORT

Year Ending September 30, 2010

For

**THE UNITED STATES AGENCY
FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

OFFICE OF FOREIGN DISASTER ASSISTANCE

Re: GRANT NO. AID-OFDA-G-10-00040

Submitted by:

**World Concern Development Organization
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Seattle, WA 98133
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December 21, 2010

ANNUAL PROGRAM REPORT

REPORTING PERIOD: October 1, 2009 – September 30, 2010

GENERAL REFERENCE:

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- D. DATE OF THIS REPORT:** December 21, 2010

Program Goal: To save human lives and reduce suffering by strengthening the livelihoods of the drought, flood and conflict-affected population of Somalia.

PROJECT OVERVIEW AND SUMMARY:

This annual report covers a relatively short time span of grant activities, namely June through September 2010. Whilst WCDO has been a regular recipient of OFDA grant funding for Somalia over the past several years, there was a break in the 2009-2010 year due to complications resulting from OFAC issues as they pertained to working in the southern region, as well as a parallel deterioration in overall security in the south, as Al Shabaab strengthened its position and influence over NGO activities.

As a consequence of these developments, this grant focused the majority of its activities in the north (Somaliland), and in particular the drought affected eastern regions, but did not commence officially until June. With the need to recruit two new key personnel, the project did not move substantially forward until July. Time since then was focused on networking with government officials, community leaders, and recruitment of local program staff. Identification of suppliers and beneficiaries, and finalizing of specific project locations was the primary activity during this period.

At the same time, Northwest Somalia (Somaliland) authorities held peaceful elections and elected a new president and government. This also impacted regional and district authorities. Building relations with the new authority delayed (slowed) much of the envisaged activities for the project. Nevertheless, a functional partnership was forged with the Ministry of Mining, Energy and Water Resources. Relationship building with the local leadership, other agencies working in the area and direct beneficiaries was also carried out. Program staff visited proposed sites in Togdheer and Sanaag regions and held meetings with local line ministries representatives and other agencies working in the water, sanitation and hygiene sector. The project staff

identified eight camps hosting IDPs where the livelihood aspects of the project are expected to focus¹.

A small number of project activities were planned for the southern part of the country. However, the escalating conflict in South Central, between the Transitional government (TFG) and Al Shabaab, resulted in insecurity in much of the region and a reduced humanitarian access to most parts proposed by the project (Jilib district in the Juba Valley). This made it difficult for the program to contact the proposed partners (FORAD) to deliberate on implementation plans.

Sector Name: Agricultural and Food Security

Objective: Households in Somalia will have improved alternative sources of food by the end of the project.

Sub-sector Name: Seed Systems and Agricultural Inputs

Indicator 1: (Projected) increase in number of months of food self-sufficiency due to distributed seed systems/agricultural inputs for beneficiary families. (Target: 6 months)

During the grant period, the project focused on accessing locally available inputs (seeds, tools, etc.) from the local market and staff visited several suppliers within Hargeisa town to pursue the possibility of purchase of most of the agricultural inputs (seedlings, seeds, hand tools and sacks) from the local market. This has been projected to drastically reduce the cost of cross border purchase from Kenya/Nairobi to the project sites. The project identified 75 farmers who will be the beneficiaries of the agriculture inputs and trainings. The project also requested the new local authority to deal with land allocation (15 plots) for some of the planned activities.

Indicator 2: Number of people benefiting from seed systems/agricultural input activities. (Target: 1,100)

The community discussion and identification process began, with the purpose of identifying 1,100 households (mostly from the IDP camps) who are expected to receive seeds and tools to establish kitchen gardens, with 100 participants to be trained on feed sack gardening.

Indicator 3: Number of people trained (Target: 175)

As noted earlier, the focus to date was on identifying and mobilizing the beneficiaries who will benefit from the seed and agriculture inputs. The Ministry of Water and Mineral Resource, Agriculture and Livestock, and the local community leadership were consulted to determine criteria of those to be trained.

It was envisioned that 75 selected participants (mostly progressive farmers) and an additional 100 people (IDPs), would be trained on a practical exercise of preparing the nurseries and seed beds for the demonstration on kitchen gardens and feed sack gardening. Agricultural extension officers, seconded from the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock, were chosen in advance to train the community members.

¹ SOLIS field report (June and July 2010)/SOLIS community dialogue meetings (Alice Songwa)

Sector Name: Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

Objective: To improve access to safe water supply for human and livestock consumption and adequate sanitation facilities to promote hygiene practices.

Sub-sector Name: Hygiene Promotion/Behaviors

No measureable progress against the four indicators was achieved during the first four months. The project focused on the hiring of community mobilizers and hygiene promoters. A consultant was also identified to support in the PHAST and CHAST trainings at the community level in Togdheer and Sanaag regions.

During September, the project was involved in identification and mapping of sites for the water points and storage locations in Somaliland (Toghdeer and Sanaag regions). Hopes for progress in the south for water points further diminished due to the aggressive stance of Al Shabaab. This resulted in preliminary discussions to move some/all of the proposed southern sites to Somaliland.

Sub-sector Name: Sanitation

Beneficiaries in this sub-sector were still at the identification stage by September 30th.

Sub-sector Name: Water Supply

No water points were constructed at this stage of the project. Finalizing locations and beneficiaries was the principle activity. As with other sectors, this was hampered in the north by the national election with its associated change of public officers, and in the south due to the activities of Al Shabaab.

CONCLUSION:

While activities in the Northwest (Somaliland) have began smoothly if slowly, the south continues to present significant challenges. Al Shabaab continues to exert a strong hold over the Juba Valley area, although signs of internal discontent have recently surfaced. At present, access remains impossible under the current conditions; WCDO staff continues to monitor the situation, although eventually, a decision will need to be made as to whether water point construction in the south is possible in this current grant, leading to a reallocation to the Northwest. However, this will depend on the outcome of the proposed meetings with the initially identified partner (FORAD) working in the south (mainly to review the possibility of implementation).