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Save the Children (UK)
Mid-Term Narrative Report

I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Organisation: Save the Children - UK	Date: November 26, 2001
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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/1204/3352	
Country(ies) / Region(s): Ethiopia	
Disaster/Hazard: Food Shortages	
Time Period Covered by This Report: 1st Nov 2001	To: 31st Jan 2002

Objective1:
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 achivement of Objective 1:

1. Baseline assessments have been conducted between September 16 and October 28. During this period, baselines were completed for half of the identified food economy zones. The remaining baseline assessments (six) will be done in January 2002.

2. SC-UK recruited and deployed all the technical staff during the period from May to mid-August 2001. The Regional DPPB has deployed key technical staff to be counterparts to the SC-UK team. The process of capacity building for the Regional DPPB has been started with the baseline training in September-November 2001. Food security monitoring has started for preliminary indicators, but final indicators have not been identified and training on monitoring as well as reporting systems has not yet been done.

3. Pilot Zone selection/training has not been done as the modalities for selection of appropriate community reporting structures are being reviewed. This is planned for in the early part of the next reporting period.

Resources: Co-funding from OFDA and ECHO	
Budget for Objective 1: US$ 336,494	Expended This period: US$ 77,406.48
Cummulative Expenditure to Date: US$ 243,297.48	Balance: US$ 93,196.81

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 (See attached Map)

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.* Most indicators show intermediate results only and final outputs were not expected during this reporting period. Progress towards the achievement of these is reported under each of the activities below:

General

1. A project implementation agreement has been signed between SC-UK and Regional Government (DPPB) in May 2001. *This was done on schedule.*

2. A Regional Steering Committee for the project was constituted in July 2001. The Committee will guide the implementation of the project. Its terms of reference include contingency planning and the analysis 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 interested in Food Security/Early Warning, but there are 14 core members (DPPB, SC-UK, SC-USA, ACF, HCS, WFP, UN-EUE, UNICEF, OWS, 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 in October when baseline-work was ongoing.

3. An international security expert carried out a security assessment in May 2001 and produced security guidelines specifically for the project. The report's recommendations are now being implemented. *Done on schedule.*

4. A need assessment for the project was done in July 2001, and the process of ordering of capital items was started. However, because of the delay in the signing of the contract, and the long procurement processes, capital items such as vehicles and HF radios, have not been received.

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 (see attached map). *This activity was moved forward (from July) and has been accomplished.*

2. 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 will be incorporated in the baseline reports. *Done on Schedule*

3. Two international HFE experts, one from SC-UK's Food Security Unit and the other from FSAU/FAO-Somalia, were contracted, to provide external technical support for the baseline exercise, and they reported in mid September. *Done on Schedule*

4. In consultations with the two experts, the DPPB, relevant NGOs/UN-Agencies, and FSAU/FAO Somalia, a baseline assessment plan was drawn out by July/August, 2001.

5. The HFE baseline work was conducted between 16 September and 28 October 2001. This exercise consisted of a training component and a fieldwork, analysis and write-up component split in two phases. Phase I of the baseline work was conducted between 16 September and 29 October 2001. Phase II will be carried out in January 2002.

6. Out of the 12 Food Economy Zones initially identified, baseline work has been completed for six in the first phase of fieldwork. Analysis work is complete and the write-ups are being finalised by the trainers (to be completed November/December 2001). The remaining six baseline assessments will be done in the second phase of the fieldwork. Phase II was initially planned for November/December 2001, but had to be postponed in order to give more time for analysis/write-up of the first set of baselines and to allow for the participating organisations to take part in the National Annual Needs Assessment, planned for the same period. Furthermore, the holy month of Ramadhan falls in the same period and as the participants and respondents are virtually all Muslim, it was felt that it would be difficult to carry out the exercise efficiently during this time.

This postponement is not expected to delay 'the reporting on final indicators' which was scheduled for February. It is expected that this will be done on schedule.

7. Collaboration was sought for the project implementation using different forums (July-August 2001). As a result, in the baseline work FSAU-Somalia provided technical support by providing four 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. Over 60 participants from more than 10 organisations (Governmental and Non-governmental) took part in the baseline work. *This is considered a great success, and credit goes to the Regional Sensitisation workshop held earlier in the year.*

Activity 2: To improve the capacity of the RDPPB to monitor and anlyse 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 recruitment process for the Early Warning Field Co-ordinator and Trainer/ Analyst were completed and the positions filled in Mid-August 2001. Deployment of the

latter two delayed by one month, due to poor communication in the region, but this did not delay other processes. A counterpart team of two technicians was set up by the RDPPB in July, to work with the SC-UK team.

2. The recruitment process for nine Zonal Food Security Officers (ZFSO) was completed and they were deployed in Mid-August 2001 according to plan. In September, the RDPPB appointed nine Zonal officers as counterparts to the ZFSOs

NB: The Field Co-ordinator, Trainer/Analyst and ZFSOs were selected using a rigorous recruitment process, with the participation of DPPB.

3. The project's Technical Coordinator and a newly recruited SC-UK Food Security Advisor in 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/Ahmara regions, and to collect baseline data against which the Somali and Amhara Early Warning Projects may be later evaluated. The survey report is ready (Annex F).

4. SC-UK Jijiga area program has assigned six (6) vehicles to the FS/EW project, in readiness for baseline assessment and other fieldwork. Four of these vehicles are in use until the project vehicles are purchased.

5. An Early Warning Orientation workshop was held in late August 2001, for the newly recruited project staff and DPPB technical staff. This workshop was held to introduce the participants to the project objectives, activities, and expected outputs. Also the concepts of Early Warning and Food Security were explored and preliminary indicators for food security monitoring were discussed and agreed upon for the different zones. *Done on Schedule*

6. A good working collaboration 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.

7. A major training on food security concepts and Household Food Economy Analysis (HFEA) was conducted in September/October 2001. The training consisting of classroom and fieldwork components has been conducted for the project staff, counterpart DPPB technical staff and for several interested organisations working in the region. The training was the first major capacity building exercise for DPPB and other partners. Afterwards, baseline work on livelihood patterns in the Region was conducted; this has been lacking previously.

8. Based on the training given in the Early Warning Orientation workshop, the ZFSOs and DPPB counterparts (and interested partner organisations) have started joint food security monitoring activities using preliminary indicators. Two preliminary monitoring reports for September and October 2001 have been produced and are available in the form directly reported by are ZFSOs - not in any specific format. These are test reports - not the reports mentioned in the proposal - and are not yet being tabled at the Steering Committee meetings for approval. Meanwhile, a format for the quarterly reports is being worked out.

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.

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 at PA level and regularly report on identified food security indicators from PA to Woreda level.

The plan of setting up community reporting structures has not changed but what is being reviewed is the number of pilot Zones to select, the participation of other organisations, and the process of identifying the PA/community members to be trained for the purpose. This is currently being discussed by the Steering Committee, which will outline the details of the process.

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 is a need to involve all of them and to to avoid duplication of efforts. These organisations include ACF in Korahe 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 in order to expand the number of Zones to pilot with and to help work out a practical way of selecting community members for the task.

It is proposed that initially SC-UK Zonal Food Security Officers and DPPB counterparts, together with interested organisations in the Zones will, after the identification of final indicators, conduct joint monitoring activities for an initial 1-2 months. Meanwhile they will identify appropriate community members who will be trained to eventually take up the task of food security monitoring and reporting. After the handing over, ZFSOs and DPPB will be assisting in information collection and preliminary analysis, as well as acting as quality controllers. Joint monitoring activities with ACF and HCS, using preliminary indicators, will be

started in November in two zones - Korahe and Shinile. After final indicators are established (in February 2002) it is expected that joint monitoring will expand to 4-5 Zones. Therefore pilot zone/community level training, initially planned for only one Zone, has been postponed in order to take advantage of existing potential at Zonal level (from partners) and potentially increase the number of Zones.

B. Success Stories

So far the work done has not had any visible direct impact on communities and families. However the DPPB and participating NGOs and UN-Agencies have benefited from the training and have been exposed to an analytical framework (HFEA) 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.

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.

C. Unforeseen Circumstances

No incidents have 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 indicted in the accompanying financial report

LIST OF PUBLICATIONS THAT ARE AVAILABLE UPON REQUST

1. Minutes of the Steering Committee (July, August, September)
2. Security Guidelines for the Project Implementation
3. Food Security/Early Warning Information User Survey
4. Preliminary Food Security Reports from the ZFSOs

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
HFEA / HFE	Household Food Economy Analysis/Approach
OWS	Ogaden Welfare Society
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 Childrens Fund
Wereda (amharic)	District
WFP	UN - World Food Programme
ZFSO	Zonal Food Security Officers (SC-UK)