



CARE INTERNATIONAL IN YEMEN

Final Report

**Supporting IDPs & Host Communities in Hajjah in WASH & Sustainable Livelihoods
(October-March 2012)**

**USAID-OFDA Award:
(AID-OFDA-G-11-00155)**

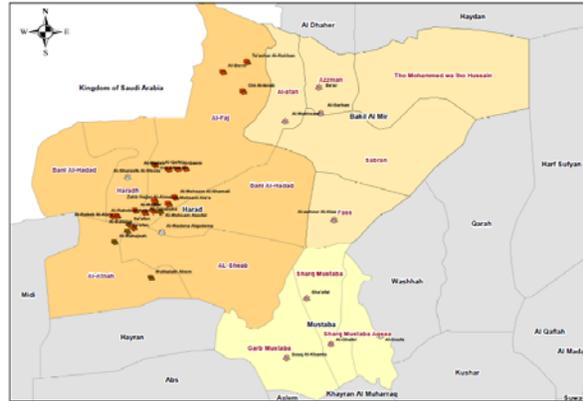
June, 2012

ABBREVIATIONS

| | |
|---------------|--|
| BNA | Basic Needs Assessment |
| CCs | Community Committees |
| EU | Executive Unit for IDPs |
| FAO | Food Agriculture Organization |
| FGD | Focus Group Discussions |
| Gov. | Governorate |
| H.H | House Hold |
| H.H.H | House Hold Head |
| HC | Host Community |
| HKs | Hygiene Kits |
| IDPs | Internally Displaced Persons |
| INGOs | International non-Governmental Organizations |
| NGOs | National non-Governmental Organizations |
| OFDA | Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance |
| REA | Regional Emergency Advisor |
| REC | Regional Emergency Coordinator |
| ToQ | Table of Quantities |
| USAID | United States Agency for International Development |
| UNHCR | United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees |
| UNICEF | United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund |
| WASH | Water Sanitation and Hygiene |
| WFP | World Food Program |

Introduction: This report outlines the main achievements of the USAID/OFDA funded project, ‘Supporting IDPs and Host Communities in Hajjah in WASH and Sustainable Livelihoods’ from October, 2011 to 15 March, 2012 which was addressing the WASH and livelihood needs of the affected communities. The project reached out to 14700 beneficiaries in a period of 6 months and has been able to successfully implement activities in the targeted areas.

Justification for Intervention: The project was initiated as a result of the emerging needs of the displaced population in the district. As of 30 April 2011, the total population of IDPs registered by UNHCR in Hajjah Governorate constituted 103,362 individuals (14,094 families), of which 84,930 individuals (11,562 families), i.e. 82%, were residing outside camps. There were many reasons why many IDPs had chosen to stay outside camps. These included cultural factors such as lack of privacy (especially for women) due to overcrowding in camps, as well as lack of space for livestock and family links with members of the host community.



Whereas IDPs in camps had many of their needs met, huge gaps remained for those in informal rural settlements. Contributing factors ranged from lack of registration, poor records and IDPs in isolated and scattered settlement patterns that were very expensive to cater to. This was compounded by the structural poverty among host communities which made targeting just IDPs a significant challenge as this might have created tensions between IDPs and host families and reduced the level of hospitality expressed by host communities towards IDPs.

In April 2011, CARE Yemen carried out a rapid basic needs assessment (BNA) among internally displaced persons (IDPs) living in informal settlements among rural host communities. The BNA was carried out in the districts of Bakil Al-Mir and Mustaba and focused on locations that NGOs operating in the region identified as being in particular need. The BNA revealed a number of unmet basic needs, which were similar in both districts. While IDPs in Mustaba resided more closely with the host communities, needs in *Tasheer* were more survival-oriented as IDPs lived in makeshift shelters on open plains. The priority needs included the following:

- **Water:** Access to water was generally very limited, and available water was often of poor quality. In Taasher area water was being fetched from a wadi bed, requiring people to dig for it with their bare hands during the dry season. Most IDP families did not have adequate water transport or storage facilities, and women and girls¹ spent considerable amounts of time fetching water. Neither IDPs nor host communities used filters or other techniques to purify water for human consumption.
- **Sanitation:** Host communities and IDPs generally practiced open defecation. Women often had to wait until nightfall, with related protection and health risks.
- **Health:** Diarrhoea was widespread due to poor water quality and inadequate sanitation conditions, followed by malaria and bilharzias. Lack of access to basic health services was a common problem in both districts, especially for the IDP populations with limited resources to travel.

¹ “as a consequence of that most school-age-children dropout”

- **Food:** There was a general shortage of food supplies for IDPs outside the camps, which particularly affected large families with more than seven members. WFP food assistance only covered 15-20 days per month, requiring IDPs to gain additional income or reduced calorie intake.
- **Livelihoods:** Livelihoods opportunities were extremely limited in both districts. The dry climate offered little opportunity to engage in agricultural activity, even for host communities. The majority of residents and some better off IDPs raised livestock (mainly goats and sheep).

Based on the findings of this assessment it was clear from all perspectives that there were urgent and critical needs in the districts of Bakil Al-Mir and Mustaba. CARE International responded to the needs of the affected communities through the OFDA funded project and given below is detail of the project history and its achievements.

Project History: The project was designed in mid 2011 as a response to the increased needs of the conflict affected population in Hajja Governorate. The proposal was developed and submitted to OFDA in early July 2011. In follow up negotiations with the donor, the budget was decreased to USD 1.25m million from the initial 2.5 million and the proposal approved at the end of August. The OFDA agreement was dated August 31st but only received by CARE on September 30th due to wrong email contact information that the contract was sent to. Given the delays in startup due to the above reasons and also the increasing security issues in the project target areas, on 24th February, a formal NCE letter was submitted to OFDA to extend the project time period. However the request was rejected and the decision communicated on 8th March over a phone call between CARE and OFDA DC office, followed by a written rejection sent to CARE on 14th March 2012. The project had to close on 15th March 2012 as per the original contract. With special request and justification, CARE was given permission to procure the livestock towards the end of the project as all processes had already been completed for the procurement by this time. This was done with special technical recommendation on the mode of distribution and an agreed upon duration of distribution of the livestock, after the project end date. No additional fund for any activity including distribution was entertained from OFDA contribution after the project end date. In order to continue the activities, CARE secured additional funding from other sources and has been implementing the interventions in the target communities after the close of the OFDA funding period. The project achievements are described below and are to be viewed in light of the project history outlined here

Program Description/Objectives:

The project had the following intervention and has been able to achieve the following results.

Overall Objective: To ensure that IDPs in Hajjah Governorate have opportunities to earn sustainable income from livestock rearing activities and access to adequate levels of clean drinking water and have improved understanding of health and hygiene awareness.

Start up Activities: The project start up activities included

1. **Field Study:** In November 2011 CARE International Yemen contracted an international consultant to conduct a study to examine the livelihoods strategies of both host communities and IDPs in order to assist the relevant population to improve their living conditions and re-establish some degree of economic self-sufficiency. One of the main findings of the study was that while the project was designed to exclusively focus on the distribution of goats and chickens, there was considerable potential for other activities, which could assist both poor host community members and IDPs to reassert some economic autonomy.

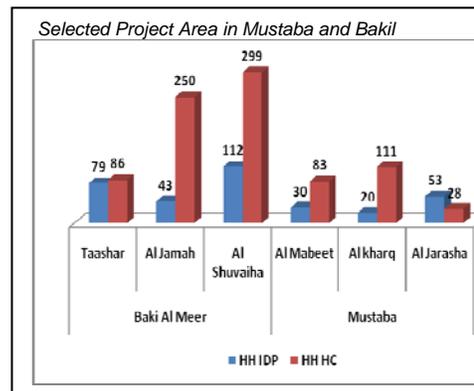
2. **Establishment of Office** A fully equipped CARE sub-office was set up in Haradh.
3. **Recruitment of staff:** In December 2011, an expatriate Project manager was hired after a long recruitment process. The nature of the job and the difficult living conditions as well as the unstable security situation were the main contributing factors to the delay. In addition, the project also hired a team of national staff which included the Project Assistant, WASH Engineer, Livelihood Officer, Veterinary Specialist, 4 Community Mobilizers (including two females CMs), and all support staff (field Admin/Accountant, Procurement/Logistics Officer, 3 Drivers, 3 Guards and a Cleaner).
4. **Country Office and Regional Office field visits:** Following a number of security incidents involving the conflicting parties in the north of Yemen, CARE senior staff (Emergency Team Leader and Emergency Program Coordinator) visited the project sites in October to assess the situation and feasibility of implementation. In December 2011, following a visit of the Regional Emergency Coordinator (REC) to the country office, an orientation session on OFDA regulations was provided to the project staff, meeting with OFDA regional representatives and supporting the development of a detailed work-plan.

5. **Needs Assessment:** The project undertook an internal needs assessment at the end of December 2011. The general objectives was to provide updated figures of the current food security situation of IDPs in the Bakil Al Mir and Mustaba districts, Hajjah Governorate within the context of Water Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) and Sustainable Livelihoods interventions in these areas. The project collected secondary data from partners and various resources to be familiar of where the assessment should be undertaken in order to avoid any duplication. The key findings of the assessment were as follow:



Photo (1). The project team visits a village in Mustaba to conduct needs assessment.

- IDPs live below the standardized poverty line of 2 dollars per day and below food poverty line of 2200 calories per day.
- It was hard to separate IDPs needs from community needs, as both are food-insecure.
- Communities are scattered over a large geographic area which makes it difficult to access (groups of households are on average 0.5-1km from each other).
- The target groups had limited access to food and basic services (water, electricity, health).
- An alarming level of malnutrition was prevalent among children under five years of age.
- IDPs had limited access to drinking water and poor sanitation facilities.
- The unstable situation in Mustaba district creates a security risk for the project. There were ongoing clashes between the Houthis and local communities. Several rebel groups controlled the roads between villages.



6. **Baseline survey:** In January 2012 (January 2-15) the project baseline survey was conducted for targeted IDPs and Host Communities in Hajjah Governorate in WASH and Sustainable Livelihoods by external consultant. Among the

25 assessed villages, 16 (4 from Mustaba and 12 from Bakil Al Mir districts) were preliminarily selected for the baseline as the potential project areas. Targeted villages were selected based on three main criteria: level of poverty, food accessibility, and livelihood. All figures on the number of IDPs and Host Communities were updated during the baseline assessment. The needs assessment additionally revealed that in most of the communities the poverty level is the same among IDPs and host communities. The survey initially covered primarily targeted areas in Bakil Al-Mir and Mustaba Districts of Hajjah Governorate. The baseline survey was designed to identify and evaluate the current situation in the project areas of intervention. Both Household Field Survey (HH) and the focus group discussion (FGD) were used for quantitative and qualitative data collection. A total of 612 households were interviewed through 6 FGD. The data collected revealed 3683 persons living in 8 villages of the two Districts, including 1458 IDPs (40% of the total population) and 2225 host community members (60% of the total population), the number of children under 5 years were 962, of them 380 are IDPs and 582 host populations. Based on this baseline results, six villages of 39 hamlets were selected in Mustaba and Bakil Al Mir districts for project activities.

Sector 1: Agriculture and Food Security

- a) **Objective:** To ensure that IDPs outside the Mazraq camps and host community residents have opportunities to earn sustainable income from livestock rearing activities.
- b) **Beneficiary Numbers:** In the Livestock sub-sector, 350 IDP households and the most vulnerable households of the host community respectively, benefited from the intervention, while IDPs and host communities both benefitted from WASH interventions. Goats were distributed only to female headed households for IDPs and host community members, while benefitting the entire household.

| Sector Name: | Agriculture and Food Security | Variance / remarks |
|---|--|---|
| Objective: | <i>To ensure that IDPs living in Hajjah Governorate have opportunities to earn sustainable income from livestock rearing activities.</i> | |
| Number of beneficiaries targeted: | 3,500 individuals | |
| Number of beneficiaries reached by March 15 th 2012: | Bakil Al Mir-2591 (men-988, women 1040), Mustaba -1782(men-598, women-852). Total 4,373 individuals | Over achieved number of target beneficiaries as family size are 7-8 members. |
| Number of IDP beneficiaries Reached by March 15 th 2012: | 1794 (41% of total) | |
| Geographic Area(s): | Hajjah Governorate, districts of Bakil Al-Mir and Mustaba | |
| Sub-Sector Name: | Livestock | |
| Indicator 1: | Number of animals benefiting from or affected by livestock activities -2000 (including goat kids) | Target achieved |
| Indicator 2: | Number of people benefiting from livestock activities 4,373 (IDPs-1,782, Host Communities-2,591) | Over achieved number of target beneficiaries as family size are is 7-8 members. |

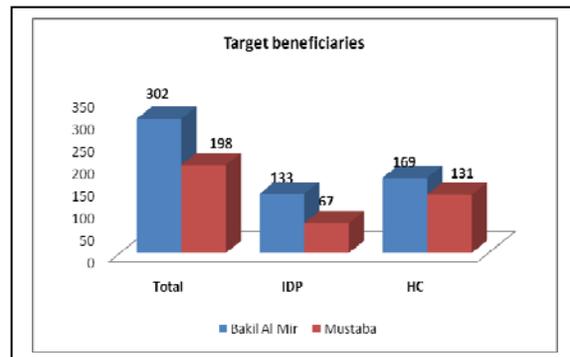
Subsector: Livestock

- a) **Selection of Beneficiaries:** a number of meetings were held with key community leaders to share with them the details of projects activities and ensure community participation, resulting in the setting up of nine village committees with a total of 81 members, {IDPs-37(45, 6), HC-44 (54, 4), Male-53(65%), Female-28(35%) }. They were provided with basic

training on community mobilization and the use of participatory decision-making approach in the selection of targeted beneficiaries. Criteria for selection of beneficiaries were shared with them and discussions held to get their feedback. The resulting set of criteria was then used to identify the beneficiaries for assistance with livestock. The criteria was as below

- Women household heads
- Newly arrived IDPs.
- Households where the head of the household was disabled
- Persons who were extremely poor as identified by the community and included persons with low income and / and or large number of children.
- Those persons who had some experience of managing livestock to ensure they had the necessary skills and social capital to be able to manage the livestock.

The village committee members selected 500 beneficiaries for assistance by the project. The project team conducted house to house monitoring visit to verify how beneficiaries meet project selection criteria. 39 beneficiaries were rejected as they did not meet the selection criteria and replaced by new beneficiaries. A total of 500 (IDPs-200, HC-300) beneficiaries were selected for livestock distribution, 302 (IDP-133, HC-169) in Bakil Al Mir-and 198 (IDP-67, HC-131) in Mustaba-districts.



According to the proposal each beneficiary was supposed to receive 3 female goats with one kid with a total of 1500 goats (plus 500 kids) for 500 H.H's. The criteria for purchase of goats developed by the project team are as below:

- Goats should be of local variety (*Maraweea or Tahami*) and should show *resistance to infections and can adapt to the hot weather*.
- Female goats should be between a maximum of 1-2 years (early reproductive age to maximize the number of infants born).
- Female goats should have kid, pregnant (preferable).
- Goats should be vaccinated/immunized before being delivered to beneficiaries, to avoid future morbidity/mortality.

Based on the above criteria, the project procured 1500 Female Goats as follows -500 Normal Female Goats, 500 Pregnant Goats, and 500 Female Goats with their babies.

b) Procurement Process of Goats:

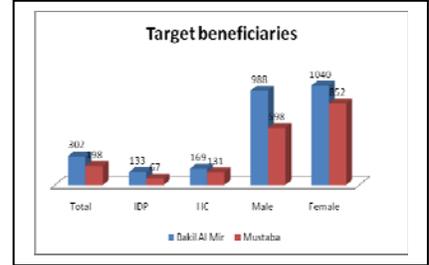
At the end of January 2012, a market survey for procuring goats locally was conducted in 7 local markets. The survey results revealed that it was difficult to purchase the required number of goats directly from the local day market, as only 50-100 goats are available each day in the market with the criteria developed by the project. In light of this survey finding, a decision was taken to contract out the purchase of goats to vendors for the required quantities. In February, several meetings were conducted with local vendors to share with them the criteria for purchase of goats and among identified vendors from the local market who participated in the tendering process; two were selected to provide 1500 goats for 500 HH. The quantity was divided between the two vendors (750 goats each) as one vendor could not cope with purchase and distribute the entire quantity.

Vendors purchased goats from traditional animal markets in a widely open area called Tahamah², and once purchased, the animals were moved to a holding location. This process was ongoing until the required numbers of goats were procured and available for delivery to the distribution points. (it takes an average of 2-3 days to collect 50-100 goats of each type from different markets). This mitigated the negative impact of bulk procurement on the local economy. However, this lengthy process also contributed to significant delays.

Delivery of goats was broken down into manageable quantities (100-150 in each delivery) spread over a one month (March 7 -April 10th) period depending on the type of goat being delivered (normal/pregnant/goats with babies). Each goat was numbered (earring) and checked by the project's veterinary and livelihood officer to ensure that they matched the criteria developed by the project and then sent to project sites after being fed and given water. 1500 female goats: one ordinary, one pregnant and one with kid were distributed to 500 targeted households (Bakil Al Mir-302, Mustaba-198). De-worming of all goats (Albendazol was given to the goats in two rounds within a period of 2 weeks) was undertaken by the project (through CARE's own fund). Twelve distribution points were identified in each village and the goats were transported to these points with extreme care. Water and food was provided before and during the distribution.

Distribution cards with identification number (see picture) was given to the beneficiaries one day before the distribution along with an agreement letter to be signed by beneficiaries describing the terms and conditions of receiving the goats.

Local Executive Unit (EU) representative and Village Committee members participated in the distribution of goats. Goats were delivered to female beneficiaries who were identified using the criteria developed by the project. Basic training on livestock management (veterinary care, prevention and treatment of Gastrointestinal and respiratory infections, feeding, income generation) was provided to the beneficiaries to help ensure they were able to take care of the animals. Also, instruction on making shelters for the animal was provided to the beneficiaries by the project team. Monitoring visits were conducted one week after the distribution by project staff. Any goat that died during the first week of distribution was replaced by the vendor according to the agreement between CARE and the vendors. Over a one month period following the distribution of goats, all beneficiaries had kids being delivered by the pregnant goats.



منظمة كير باليمن - مشروع
OFDA

الاسم: _____
رقم البطاقة: () _____
الكرت: () _____

² Tahamah is a widely opened area passing through three governorates (Hajjah, Hodaidah and Raymah) in the coastal area.

Women and livestock – an empowering step!

A farmer in Aljama village in Bakil Almir District said "Everybody depends on the earth to survive. Unfortunately, the change in the weather patterns is making survival more difficult in Aljama village. Having received these goats we can now hopefully make our living and live our life in dignity."

The project distributed goats to the most vulnerable individuals as a part of its food and agriculture intervention. The distribution of goats were meant to address two main needs of the people – provide milk for consumption of the family, indirectly related to improving the quality of food consumed by the family especially children, and earn some income from the sale of milk in the local market.

The most important aspect of the interventions was the targeting of women as beneficiaries. Within a family, the woman was selected in order to ensure she had some income earning capacity and also to prevent the sale of goats by men, which was cited as a problem by the people due to the high unemployment rate and the culture of chewing Qat. (A leaf that is chewed as an intoxicant by most men in the communities). It was a novel experience to see women who had never ever been involved in any activity at the community level being escorted by their male family members to collect the goats from the distribution point. "If well managed, it will help bring money into the households" – a man stated. Each woman was given three goats – a normal one, a pregnant one and a goat with a kid. The women emanated a new sense of dignity and determination. During the initial discussions with the women at the community level, they did not fail to mention that this was the first time anyone had asked them the problems they faced in managing a household; this was the first time anyone from outside wanted to listen to the solution they came up with.

The women were also provided livestock rearing trainings, on how to make use of the very simple local resources that will help them in taking care of the goats and keeping them healthy and productive. Women feel proud of their new skills.

A woman in Shajen Dawlah community in Bakil Almir noted, the goats are so healthy, that I see them multiplying quickly and I will be able to bear some of my family's expenses. It's a new beginning for many of them.

Sector 2: Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH)

Objective : To ensure that IDPs outside the Mazraq camps and host community residents have access to adequate levels of clean drinking water and have an improved understanding of health and hygiene awareness.

| Sector Name: | Water and, Sanitation, Hygiene (WASH) | Variance / remarks |
|--|--|--|
| Objective: | <i>To ensure that IDPs in Hajjah Governorate have access to adequate levels of clean drinking water and have improved an understanding of health and hygiene awareness.</i> | |
| Number of beneficiaries targeted: | 14,700 individuals | |
| Number of IDP beneficiaries reached by March 15 2012 | 2,450 individuals | |
| Geographic Area(s): | Hajjah Governorate, districts of Bakil Al-Mir and Mustaba | |
| Sub-Sector Name: | Hygiene Promotion / Behaviors | |
| Indicator 1: | Percent of target population demonstrating good hand-washing practices 500 Hygiene kits were distributed to 4,373 individuals (IDPs-1,782, Host Communities-2,591) | The project can only report on the number of individuals reached as the indicator was not tracked beyond the project end period due to the rejection of the NCE extension and the remaining hygiene promotion activities were undertaken through other source of funding |

| | | |
|-----------------|--|--|
| Indicator 2: | Percent of target population demonstrating correct water usage and storage 500 jerry cans were distributed to 4,373 individuals (IDPs-1,782, Host Communities-2,591) | The project can only report on the number of individuals reached as the indicator was not tracked beyond the project end period due to the rejection of the NCE extension and the remaining hygiene promotion activities were undertaken through other source of funding |
| Indicator 3: | Number and percent of clean water points functioning three months after completion | The rejection of the NCE extension led to the water points being rehabilitated by another source of funding after the project close out as per original contract on 15th March 2012. This indicator was not tracked after the project end period. |
| Sub Sector name | Water Supply | |
| Indicator 1 | Number and percent of household water supplies with 0 Coliform bacteria per 100 ml | The rejection of the NCE extension led to the water points being rehabilitated by another source of funding after the project close out as per original contract on 15th March 2012. This indicator was not tracked after the project end period. |
| Indicator 2 | Average water usage of targeted population in liters per person per day prior to and after interventions | The rejection of the NCE extension led to the water points being rehabilitated by another source of funding after the project close out as per original contract on 15th March 2012. This indicator was not tracked after the project end period. |
| Indicator 3: | Number and percent of water points with measurable chlorine residual exceeding 0.2 mg/l | The rejection of the NCE extension led to the water points being rehabilitated by another source of funding after the project close out as per original contract on 15th March 2012. This indicator was not tracked after the project end period. |

Beneficiary Numbers: Hygiene promotion reached 200 IDP households and 300 host community families. The distribution of hygiene materials and jerry cans targeted 500 HH of both IDPs and HCs and 200 new IDP that arrived in Mustaba district after heavy clashes in Kushar, Mustaba district in January 2012. The rehabilitation of water sources benefited communities with IDPs, where proposed interventions have the highest impact.

Water (Wells): A technical Assessment on water system rehabilitation was conducted and 10 wells selected for rehabilitation (6 in Bakil Almir and 4 in Mustaba). Technical designs were also prepared for the wells. However, due to the rejection of the NCE, this activity was not completed under the OFDA project period and funding. Care International accessed additional sources of funding and has resumed these activities with the targeted households.

Sanitation and Hygiene (Latrines): Beneficiaries for 200 latrine construction were selected. Technical design was prepared for the latrine. However, due to the rejection of the NCE, this activity was not completed under the OFDA project period and funding. CARE International accessed/secured additional sources of funding and has resumed these activities with the targeted households.



Hygiene Kits (HKs): 700 Hygiene kits were distributed to 500 targeted HH (Bakil Al Mir 302HH-IDPs135, HC167, Mustaba –198 HH, IDP-65 HC-133) and 200 new IDP HH that had arrived in Mustaba district after heavy clashes in



Kushar, Mustaba district in January 2012. The content of kit, based on UNICEF standards included soap bar, washing powder, plastic brush with mirror, Plastic bowl for washing clothes 20 litres, cotton towels, jerry cans, plastic jug and other toiletries. The project continued with its hygiene promotion activities beyond the end date of the project with other funding and was able to train WASH volunteers recruited from communities who then undertook hygiene promotion campaign in their communities.

Lessons Learned: The project undertook a lessons learned initiative wherein the project team and the country office reviewed the various aspects of the project including planning, implementation, and reporting of project activities. This was undertaken in two parts

1. Conducting a workshop with the project team to get a field perspective on what worked/did not work well and what could be lessons for future projects from this experience
2. Discussion at the country office level of the history of the project and the various milestones in the project timeline

The main challenges identified in the workshops were:

- The start up was delayed, firstly due to the misplacement of the contract (The OFDA agreement was dated August 31st but only received by CARE on September 30th.) and then due to the security incidents taking place in the targeted districts of the project.
- Progress was slow in the start up stage due to the detailed assessments required for selecting beneficiaries. The rapid assessments were more overarching to the entire area and did not provide specific details of the targeted districts. This issue was not well captured and reported to the donor in the first quarterly report.
- The design of the project was ambitious with a number of interventions with complex approaches to community participation. The original proposal was meant for a year but was negotiated for six months in the discussions before the signing of the contract, with the possibility of extension. The activities were not substantially or sufficiently scaled down to reflect the reduced time period
- Discussions were ongoing with the OFDA regional advisors on the progress and the necessary changes to be made to the project including a request for a No Cost Extension. However, this was not formally communicated to the OFDA headquarters in a timely manner at different points of the project implementation.

The key recommendations of the lessons learned workshop was

- Possible delays in start up to be built into the project design as a contingency plan especially when proposing projects in relatively insecure areas.
- The first quarterly report should have been more elaborate detailing the difficulties in start up and security issues.
- Communication with OFDA should have been in written form and formal besides being done at regular intervals.
- Short duration projects should have lesser number of interventions with a simpler approach to implementation.
- The design of the project should have been more specific in order to avoid changes to the type and volume of intervention.
- The contingency measures should be clearly defined and agreed upon with donors from the beginning for areas where security is unstable and unpredictable.

Conclusion: OFDA project was designed to meet the WASH and livelihood needs of the targeted population. While security issues and start up challenges affected the initial pace of the

project, the project was able to address many of the needs through the identified interventions by the end date of the project and continued to deliver its outputs even after the end of the project. One of the key contributions of the project towards the communities was initiation of community led processes for the different interventions which led to the completion of the activities even after the project end date. In brief, the project was able to meet its overall objective which went beyond the end date of the project, firstly with OFDA support and then with CAREs own / additional resources.