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SOMALI DEVELOPMENT AND RELIEF AGENCY
(SDRA)

ANNUAL REPORT OF RELIEF, REHABILITATION AND
DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES IN THE SANAG
REGION (1992-1993)

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Abbreviations

ADB	-	African Development Bank
ASB	-	Workers Samitarian Federation (In German)
CFGB	-	Canadian Food Grains Bank
FE	-	French Embassy
GAA	-	German Agro Action
ICRC	-	International Committee of the Red Cross
IRA	-	Islamic Relief Agency
KM	-	Kilometre
LPI	-	Life and Peace Institute
MCC	-	Mennonite central Committee
MCDI	-	Medical Care Development International
MCH	-	Mother and Child Health
SDRA	-	Somali Development and Relief Agency
SOMAID		Somali Aid and Development
SVO	-	Stead fast Voluntary Organization
UNHCR		United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNICEF		United Nations Children's Fund
USAID		United States Agency for International Development
VTC	-	Vocational Training Centre
WDA	-	Water Development Agency

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The local communities have shown interest in the work of SDRA and have actively participated in community mobilization efforts needed for successful program implementation. We take this opportunity to acknowledge their role and support for our activities.

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PART ONE : INTRODUCTION

In August, 1992, SDRA started a relief and development program in the Sanag region in response to the human tragedy which has befallen the somali people. This report summarizes the findings and experience gained in this period and makes recommendations on feasible development priorities in the region.

The information presented in this report is not complete for all the geographical and administrative areas of the region as there has been very little data available prior to the initiation of this work, and as time shortage and resource limitations have not permitted total coverage of the area. An expansion of the information base to cover the whole Sanag region is being planned.

The recommendations made here are broad in nature and need to be broken down into specific projects and programs, with clear objectives, plans and budgets. These projects need to be developed as an immediate follow up to this report. The participation of other organizations is important as it will not be easy for SDRA alone to provide the material and human resources needed for this undertaking. SDRA therefore invites other organizations to take part in this project preparatory exercise, and in subsequent project support and implementation.

PART TWO : THE AREA AND ITS RESOURCES

2.1 Location and physical Features

The Sanag region is located in the Northern part of somalia with the Togdheer region to the west, Sool region to the south, Bari region to the east, and the Gulf of Aden to the north. The region falls between the latitudes 9 degrees and 11 degrees North and longitudes 46 degrees 50' and 49 degrees East. The total area of the region is 55,906 square kilometers. The region is divided into three distinct topographical zones, which consist of: The coastal plain known as Guban, the mountain chain and a southward descending plateau, known as Ogo. Elevations range from around 100 feet above sea level in the coast to over 6,000 feet in certain areas in the mountains. The plateau areas range from 1,000 to 1,500 feet above sea level.

2.2 Climate

The climate of the area is generally classified as arid to semiarid, however, local variations due to altitude are also common. The climate of the coastal areas is hot and arid with temperatures varying between 28 degrees celsius to 35 degrees celsius, with peak temperatures of 40 degrees celsius in July. Temperatures in the mountain areas are influenced by altitude and range from 10 degrees Celsius to 18 degrees Celsius. Temperatures in the mountain peaks, however, decrease to 5 degrees Celsius in December.

The amount and distribution of rainfall is also influenced by altitude. In the coastal areas, average rainfall varies between 50mm to 100mm, with the peak rainy season from December to January. In the mountain areas, the average annual rainfall varies from 600 to 800 mm. Rainfall decreases toward the plateau, which receives between 350 to 400 mm of rain. The main rainy season lasts from April to May, with smaller rains in October and November. Rainfall variations from season to season and from year to year, however, are highly pronounced. Droughts of varying intensity and duration occur and affect the pastoral economy of the region.

2.3 Flora and Fauna

In general, the composition, density and distribution of flora and fauna correspond to the variations of the physical features, climate and intensity of land use. In the coastal areas the natural vegetation is dominated by a mixture of dwarf shrubs and bushes, with a large number of species and subspecies. Acacia, Comiphora, Aloe spp, Ziziphus, Conocarpus and Tamarix spp are most common. Up in the mountains the vegetation is influenced by altitude and precipitation. Juniperus procera, Buxus Hilderbranditi, Terminalia spp and the gum and resin producing species of Bosweilla are most abundant. The vegetation in the plateau areas is dominated by a mixture of grasses, shrubs and bushes Cenchrus Liliarus, Chrysopogon Aucheri, Andropogon ssp,

Aritidassp, Cyndon Dactylon and a variety of other grass species grow in association with Acacia Tortillus, Acacia Bussei, Acacia Etbaica and Acacia Mellifera.

Wildlife of the area is also influenced by climatic, topographic and land use factors. Two species of gazelle, ie. Pelzens and Spekes gazelle are found in small numbers in the coastal plains. The mountain areas are inhabited by the Beira antelope, a rare species which is registered by the International Union for Conservation of Nature as an endangered species. Isolated leopards are also found in certain mountain areas and based on information from local sources the number of leopards have increased in the past few years.

In the plateau areas, cheetah, hyena, ostriches and small herds of gazelle are found. A large number of bird species, including several endemics, inhabit the mountain and coastal areas.

In general, the flora and fauna of the area is adversely affected by the intensity of land use recently aggravated by the lawlessness prevailing in Somalia. Habitat destruction, deforestation, overgrazing and destruction of wildlife, resulting from the proliferation of firearms, are serious environmental problems in the area, and could have serious socio-economic consequences if not intervened in the very near future. An alarming environmental problem is the destruction of the mountain vegetation which serves as habitat for the rare Beira antelope, the result of which could be total extinction of this species as well as accelerated water erosion in these ecologically fragile areas.

2.4 Water Resources

Water resources in the region consist of several types, including natural springs, shallow hand-dug wells, surface water reservoirs, roof catchments, and deep bore holes (table) . Natural springs are found in the North facing mountain areas and in gypsious and calcaric depressions in the plateau areas. Water quality ranges from brackish in the plateau to sweet water in the mountain areas. Water flow in these springs sometimes dries up if there is a prolonged dry season. A large number of human settlements have developed around these natural springs and include Mashaled, Moon, Markad, Ragad, Hared, Midhishi, Dayaha, Galgala, Maraje, Ulhed, Hidid and other smaller villages.

Shallow hand-dug wells are found in coastal areas in alluvial river beds, and in sedimented rocks in the plateau areas. The number of shallow hand-dug wells is increasing with human population. In the Eastern Sanag region alone, SDRA has registered over 170 wells. Average depth of hand-dug wells varies between locations (See Table 2). In the coastal areas, the depth of hand dug wells ranges between 7 to 10 meters, while in the plateau areas some hand dug-wells reach up to 50 meters. Water from hand dug wells is used for domestic and for livestock purposes and for irrigation of small gardens. Water quality is influenced by the

geologic formation of the area and by intensity of use. In the coastal areas water quality is slightly saline, although sweet water is available in some areas. Accumulation of earth and dirt in shallow wells is a major problem, while well collapse is a problem in sandy areas.

Intensive water use in the dry season results in the total drying up of some of the hand-dug wells and leads to water rationing, increasing the water cost for livestock and people.

Surface water storage systems are increasing in the area, and are based on the collection of runoff water and their storage in surface and subsurface reservoirs. In the Eastern Sanag region alone nearly 200 surface water storage reservoirs have been registered by the SDRA Technical Unit (See Table 3). Average capacity of these reservoirs depends upon the location and the purpose for which it is developed. They include small, family reservoirs which hold 3000 to 4000 liters of water and large size reservoirs for livestock watering which hold up to 60,000 liters of water. In some urban areas where water is saline and hard due to the presence of carbonates, surface storage systems are developed as sources of fresh water. There are, however, areas where surface water storage systems are the only source of fresh water. Surface water systems hold water for short periods, which usually does not exceed 2 months after the rains, depending upon the intensity of use. Several problems affect the system and reduce their values. Cracking of the concrete walls is a common problem which results in water loss, while accumulation of sediments on the beds of the reservoirs reduces the volume of water that can be contained by the reservoir. Accumulation of dirt in the reservoirs is also another problem which affects water quality and necessitates continuous cleaning by the owners.

Roof catchments are a recent introduction into the area and are based on the concept of collecting rain water from house roofs and storing it in backyard located reservoirs. Roof catchments are common in areas where there are no other sources of water and where existing water types are not good for human consumption. The size of reservoirs for roof catchments, however, are very small and keep water for only a short period of time.

Deep bore holes are the most important type of water in the area since they produce large quantities of water and since they can be used in the dry season when other sources of water dry up.

The registered number of boreholes in the Sanag region is 29, some of which were developed in the early 1960s. Average depth of the boreholes varies from between 100 to 200 meters. Boreholes are the most important source of water for the region's growing livestock wealth. On the average, one borehole serves a total of 5000 head of camels, and over 30,000 head of sheep and goats. Water from boreholes is sold by well attendants who previously worked for the Water Development Agency (WDA). Average water cost in the boreholes for livestock and for human consumption is as follows:

TABLE 1
 Location and Numbers of Shallow Hand Dug Wells
 in the Eastern Sanag Region

Location	Number of Wells	Avg Water Depth (meters)
Bioguduud	5	15
Shimbiraleh	50	7
Dhabardalol	38	15
Dawoo	50	15
Duuduri	10	9
Gaan	4	2
Elayo	3	9
Laskoreh	10	5
Yube	1	25
Shimiqshimiq	2	7
Eldofar	4	15

TOTAL	177	

TABLE 2
 Distribution of Surface Water Reservoirs
 in the Eastern Sanag Region

Location	Ecological Zone	Number of Reservoirs
Armale	Ogo Plateau	5
Damalahagarre	Ogo Plateau	27
Baragtaqol	Ogo Plateau	80
Dahar	Ogo Plateau	21
Buran	Ogo Plateau	1
Elbuh	Ogo Plateau	22
Hadalftimo	Ogo Plateau	4
Laako	Ogo Plateau	1
Hingalol	Ogo Plateau	18
Afurur	Ogo Plateau	12
	TOTAL	----- 191

One camel	500 somali shillings
100 head of sheep/goats	5,000 somali shillings
One camel load of water for household	1,500 somali shillings
200 liter drum	2,000 somali shillings

The conditions of most of the boreholes have deteriorated through the years (Table 3). Failure of power units such as engines and generators are common problems. Rusting and destruction of casing and piping material affect most boreholes. Shortage of spare parts is a common problem throughout the area and sometimes results in complete failure of the water production systems. In the Eastern Sanaag region where the SDRA has conducted a survey of water resources, most boreholes do not function on a regular basis. At the time of this report two of the five boreholes in Eastern Sanaag region were not functioning due to failure of vital parts of the production system.

2.5 Population and the economy

Reliable data on the number and distribution of the human population is scarce and needs to be compiled for relief, rehabilitation and development purposes. In 1986, the human population of the region was estimated at 216,000 people, with the highest population densities found in the plateau areas. Other sources estimate the population at 300,000 people. The heat in the coastal areas and the lack of physical infrastructure in the mountain areas have led to their underpopulation in the past, however, due to an increase of human population movement these areas are gaining importance. Of particular importance in the region is the effect of inward migration of people from other regions of Somalia as a result of the civil war. Large numbers of people displaced from other regions are currently present in the region and have placed pressure on the rudimentary services of the area. The bulk of the human population is rural based, however, urbanization and settlements are growing. Major population centers include: Erigavo, Badhan, Dhahar, Elafweyn, Laskoreh, Garadag, Hadaftimo, and Mait. Other smaller settlements include Hingalol, Elbuh, and Elayo.

The most important source of income, employment and export earnings in the region is livestock production. Sheep, goats, camels, cattle and equines are raised to varying degrees in the region. The number of livestock based on a 1988 estimate is as follows, although the numbers are likely to have shifted significantly due to civil war and drought:

Sheep	1,894,030
Goats	864,150
Cattle	85,930
Camels	325,370

TABLE 3
 Condition of Boreholes
 in the Eastern Sanag Region

Location	Boreholes	Average Depth	Operational	Remarks
Dhahar	3	200m	1	In poor condition
Elbuh	2	115m	1	Recently ceased to operate
Hingalol	2	120m	1	In very poor condition
Baragta qol	2	200m	1	Uses solar panels
Armaleh	1	130m	0	Destroyed by gunfire in the civil war
Yube	1	120m	0	Destroyed by gunfire in the civil war
Laskoreh	1	60m	0	Town has hand dug well. Power units missing
Eldofar	1	50m	0	Town uses hand dug wells. Power units missing
Elayo	1	35m	0	Town uses hand dug well. Power units missing

Livestock production is based on a system of migrations regulated by the availability of water, and pasture, and by the intense summer heat in the coastal area. The most common migrations are from the coast to plateau in summer and from plateau to mountains and coast in winter. In the dry season, animals concentrate around water points, while in the wet season, animal and people disperse throughout the area since vegetation is green and natural surface water resources are abundant.

The bulk of livestock production in the region takes place in the plateau areas as can be seen in (Table 4). This concentration of livestock, and therefore of human population in the plateau areas is a major contributor to overgrazing and range land deterioration. The plateau is also a major area of high water consumption, which contributes to continuous failure of boreholes and subsequent water shortages. Future regional plans should therefore consider the development of mountain areas to accommodate surplus livestock and people from the plateau.

Livestock exports from the region through the neighboring Bosaso port and through the small ports of Laskoreh, Mait, Hiis and Elayo is an important economic activity (Table 5). Proceeds from livestock sales are used by the pastoralists to purchase food grains and other household needs. Prices of livestock for export in the rural markets are shown on (Table 6).

TABLE 4
 Livestock Distribution in the Ecological Zones
 of the Eastern Sanag Region

Livestock	Plateau	%	Mountain	%	Coast	%	TOTAL
Sheep and goats	2,058,423	72	200,124	7	600,373	21	2,858,921
Cattle	70,902	82	15,560	18	--	--	86,462
Camels	189,170	80	4,729	2	42,563	18	236,462

Source: SDRA / MCDI Reports

TABLE 5
Livestock Exports from Port of Laskoreh
1982 to 1990

Year	Number of Animals Exported (Heads)
1982	18,000
1983	16,200
1984	32,000
1985	44,000
1986	34,300
1987	68,000
1988	105,000
1989	124,000
1990	153,000

TOTAL	594,500

Source : Records of the Ministry
of Marine Transport

TABLE 6

Prices of Livestock in the Rural Markets
of Eastern Sanag Region at 3500S.S./\$U.S.

	Somali Shilling	U.S. Dollars
Camels	600,000/head	172/head
Sheep	110,000/head	32/head
Cattle	220,000/head	63/head

Livestock production in the region is facing serious constraints. Livestock diseases have proliferated in the civil war period due largely to the lack of preventive and curative measures of disease control. Endo and ectoparasites, tick borne diseases, camel pneumonia, contagious caprine pneumonia, trypanosomiasis, foot rot, sheep pox, camel pox and goat pox are causing high livestock mortality and are reducing meat and milk yields. Overgrazing in good condition rangelands has led to the depletion of palatable range vegetation and to the invasion of the land by unpalatable invader species. This is particularly evident in grassy plains locally known as "DOOHO", which are fed by run off from higher elevations. Most of these "DOOHOS", which in the past provided forage for large numbers of livestock, are now denuded by overgrazing. Areas surrounding water points are also severely degraded due to over-concentration of livestock. Almost all water points and settlements are surrounded by large bare areas indicating range land deterioration. Periodic droughts, which have become more frequent in recent years, cause both livestock and range deterioration, especially in the plateau areas where the bulk of the livestock in the region is found.

Crop production is the second most important economic activity in the region. The mountain and coastal areas are used for the cultivation of a variety of crops, including oranges, lemons, vegetables and date palms. Spring water in the mountains and shallow hand dug water points on the coast make possible irrigation of small holdings of 2 to 4 hectares. Production is mainly for consumption in the region, although smaller quantities are sold in markets in nearby Bosaso. Cabbages are extensively grown and were in the past taken to markets in Mogadishu. Due to the civil war, however, these markets are no longer possible. Potatoes, onions and tomatoes are also produced in large quantities, but most of the produce perishes since market outlets are not developed due to poor road systems and inadequate storage facilities.

Crop production faces serious constraints, including lack of quality seeds, poor water management practices, lack of farmer training programs and limited marketing opportunities. There are ideal climatic, edaphic and hydrologic conditions, however, which could be used to expand crop production in the area if marketing, organizational and farm input constraints are removed.

Fisheries are another important economic activity whose potential is yet to be tapped. Very little fishing is done in the region's relatively large coastal area. The most important fishing enterprise was the Laskoreh fish canning plant, constructed in the 1960s with Soviet assistance. The plant ceased to operate in 1990 due to lack of spare parts. The factory was later destroyed in the 1992-93 occupation of Lakoreh by fundamentalists. Artisanal fishing is practiced by coastal communities mainly for home consumption since there are no cold storage facilities to keep and market surplus quantities. There is no recognized commercial

fishing in the area, although the intrusion of foreign fishing fleets is of major concern in the area.

Gum and frankincense production was in the past an important economic activity but has lost its role due to market restrictions practiced by the Somali government for the twenty years before the civil war. A government monopoly on marketing of the products discouraged the producers and eventually led to the complete stagnation of the industry. Since the civil war period, production has not recovered due to lack of credit mechanisms for producers and due to lack of marketing incentives. Very small quantities are bought by traders in Bosaso, who in turn sell to Djibouti-based buyers. Gum and resin producing trees are abundant in the area and the traditional technology of sorting and packing the products is known to many of the former producers who still look forward to the revival of the traditional income generating industry.

Commerce was in the past a major economic activity in the region but has drastically deteriorated during the civil war period. Security concerns, lack of purchasing power by the local people, absence of credit and banking facilities, and hostilities in remote market centers in other parts of Somalia have resulted in overall deterioration of trade and commercial activities in the region. The major commodities imported into the region are food products, fuel and kat. Very few luxury goods are brought in since customers cannot afford to buy them due to limited financial resources. A large number of former traders and businessmen have lost their financial base and are among the unemployed people of the region.

2.6 Infrastructure

Roads, ports and airports in the region are poorly developed, a matter which partly contributed to the overall isolation and underdevelopment of the region. Two roads connect the coastal areas to the hinterland and make possible the movement of goods and services to and from coastal areas. The Geldora road (95km) connects Badhan in Eastern Sanaag with Laskoreh on the coast, while Taba road (90km) connects Erigavo with Mait on the coast. Both roads have deteriorated due to lack of maintenance and are becoming difficult to use. At present it takes 8 hours to travel from Badhan to Laskoreh through Geldora road, a trip which took 3 to 4 hours in the past.

There are four landing sites in the region. These include:

Erigavo	1.9 km long
Badhan	2.0 km long
Elbuh	1.6 km long
Laskoreh	1.8 km long

There are no navigational facilities at these landing strips. They also suffer from rain water damage, resulting in the formation of water channels. Continuous maintenance is practiced by the local communities.

The region has no harbor facilities despite the use of the small ports of the region for livestock exports and for import of basic commodities. Laskoreh, Mait, Hiis and Elayo had customs facilities in the past but are no longer operational. Some of the facilities have deteriorated in the civil war period.

2.7 Local administration

There has been no organized administration system in the region since the collapse of the previous government in Somalia. Even years before the actual fall of the regime, the Sanaag region, like other regions in the north, was not under full government control. Clan controlled territories were therefore dominant in the region before the actual fall of the regime.

At present, the region is divided into a clan structure whereby each clan controls its territory and exercises a traditional system of peacemaking, resource allocation and conflict resolution.

In the Eastern Sanaag region where SDRA has been operating for the past year, the traditional system is headed by a sultan who chairs a committee of elders representing the different subclans and groups within the clan. At the village level a committee deals with such matters as relief, development and social activities. When a visitor comes to the village it is the committee who briefs him/her and transmits the information to the rest of the community. Defense and security matters are headed by the General who reports to the sultan. The General heads the local militia as well as remnants of the former Somali police who are found in most villages in the area.

Despite the absence of a formal system of government and law enforcement, the security in the area is good. Banditry and looting are not common, and traveling through the area without escorts is possible even for foreigners. At the time of this report, the various clans in the region are meeting in Erigavo to resolve their differences and to make arrangements for a durable peace in the region.

PART THREE: ORIGIN AND OBJECTIVES OF SDRA ACTIVITIES IN THE SANAG REGION

SDRA started its first activities in the area in mid 1992, a time when relief work was the main focus of the international community. At the time Eastern Sanag region was experiencing serious economic and social problems. Large numbers of displaced persons from other regions in Somalia were pouring into the area as a result of the nationwide civil war. Food and medical supplies were scarce as the overall local economy worsened during this civil war period. Malnutrition and diseases caused high mortality rates, particularly in vulnerable groups such as women, children and the elderly. Lack of shelter for the growing number of displaced and destitute people was also a major problem. This led to the occupation of the public buildings by the displaced people. Schools, hospitals and police stations and other government buildings housed the displaced people. Because of heavy congestion, aggravated by lack of maintenance, the condition of the premises deteriorated. Shortage of domestic and livestock water resources was another serious problem. Most of the boreholes were not functioning in full capacity due to lack of spare parts to overall deterioration of storage and distribution systems. As a result, livestock production deteriorated sharply. Aggravated by widespread incidence of disease, livestock numbers decreased and exports declined sharply leading to a general deterioration of income and living conditions.

The problems were further amplified by lack of national and international institutions to attend to the needs of the affected population and to develop programs and projects aimed at revival of the local production systems.

SDRA started its operations in the area in the midst of this social crisis and with limited financial and manpower resources. Preliminary activities focused on the assessment of the overall status and trends in the resources of the area, followed by the preparation of a strategy document describing the problems and priority areas for both short and long-term interventions. A map of the area showing the resources of the area and their distribution was produced in conjunction with the strategy. For logistical reasons, the activities of SDRA in the region focussed on the Eastern part of the region with a view to expanding into other areas when conditions permitted.

The objectives of SDRA programs in the area included the following:

- a) To assist the large number of displaced and destitute people and to provide them with food, shelter and medical supplies.
- b) To develop local institutional capabilities including promotion of local non-governmental organizations with a vision of enhancing the role of local professionals and talented groups or individuals.
- c) To enhance production in selected economic and social sectors including livestock production, water resource management, irrigated small scale crop production, basic health services and education.
- d) To improve access into and within the area through the development of landing facilities and access to roads.
- e) To assist international organizations willing to work in the area by providing them with the necessary information and data on the area and by facilitating their logistical requirements.
- f) To investigate the possibilities of introducing an environmental protection program for conserving rare ecosystems and species some, of which are endemic to the area.

The strategy came into effect in July, 1992, and was forwarded to a large number of donors as well as local community representatives. Favorable responses from several donors as well as consensus and cooperation from local communities stimulated the implementation of key elements of the strategy.

For almost a year of operations, the number of ongoing and pipeline projects has substantially increased. The flow of traffic into the area has improved following the development of Badhan and Elbuh airports in 1992, and maintenance of the Laskoreh airstrip in 1993. Food aid to the destitute and displaced people has increased from almost nil in mid 1992 to over 1,600 tons of grain, pulses, oil and sugar in the period. Agriculture, water development, livestock development and health projects have been planned and are at different stages of implementation. Other organizations have also started activities in the area mainly through cooperation with SDRA. German Agro Action, United Nations

Children's Fund (UNICEF), Workers Samaritarian Federation (ASB) of Germany, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), Medical Care Development International (MCDI), Mennonite Central Committee (MCC), Canadian Food Grains Bank (CFGB), and Life and Peace Institute (LPI) of Sweden are either assisting or collaborating with SDRA in their programs in the region. United States Agency for International Development (USAID), African Development Bank (ADB), and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) are also supporting the MCDI/SDRA joint program in the region. Substantial data base on water , livestock, education, health, environment and infrastructure has been produced and needs further compilation to be used for development purposes. The coordination of these activities has been made possible by the establishment of a field office in Badhan supported by an international office in Djibouti. The latter is further supported by several contact offices in Geneva, Washington D.C. and Nairobi.

The program design and implementation was not without difficulties and constraints. Shortage of operational funds to run the day-to-day operations of the various offices of the agency is still a major bottleneck. Enhancing community awareness and gaining their collaboration in a crisis period also is not an easy task, especially since resources are limited and the number of needy people and communities is large..

Little information was documented on the problems and potentialities of the area, which resulted in the spending of considerable time and resources on collecting and compiling information on the area. Recruitment of expatriate staff to work in the area has also been a major concern since international staff are reluctant to come to Somalia for obvious security reasons. Occupation of public premises such as schools and hospitals by displaced people delayed the rehabilitation and reopening of these facilities for public use. Donor preference and policies also delayed the timely initiation and implementation of much needed projects, particularly as the area of focus and SDRA were little known to the international community.

The implementation of the projects described in this report has largely been made possible by the overall satisfactory peaceful conditions in the area, thanks to the efforts of local traditional systems who made substantial efforts in peacemaking between various groups in the area. SDRA was fortunate to build on these developments and to sometimes assist them in their endeavors to maintain peace in the area as can be seen in SDRA's support of the Erigavo Peace and Reconciliation Conference.

PART FOUR: SDRA ACTIVITIES IN THE SANAAG REGION

4.0 Institution Building

4.0.1 Djibouti Office

To ensure effective coordination of international and local activities, and to have access to transportation, communication and banking facilities, SDRA established its main international office in Djibouti, which because of its proximity to Somalia, served as a main link between the country office in Badhan and international support institutions. The office was initially staffed by only one officer who undertook the dual responsibility of liaising with international donors while providing technical and administrative support to the country office. However with the expansion of both field and international activities, it became necessary to improve the capability of the Djibouti office.

An experienced administrator volunteered to join the office in August 1992, to help in the planning, budgeting, monitoring and evaluation activities needed for both field and international operations. This was a substantial contribution to the day to day operations of the office. The recruitment of a qualified secretary further improved the performance of the office operations. While initial activities started in a hotel room, SDRA currently occupies a five room apartment used for both housing and office purposes.

Facilities at the Djibouti office have also been upgraded in the reporting period. A telephone system, printing machine, photocopier, a fax machine, computer with accessories, office furniture and air conditioners have been purchased and installed in the Djibouti office. The installation of the radio equipment at the end of August will further improve the communication between Djibouti and the country office. Most of this equipment and institutional support have been provided by German Agro Action and SOMALOID, both of whom are assisting SDRA in planning, funding and implementation of other projects in the Sanag region.

4.0.2 Badhan Office

When field operations started in 1992, the Badhan office in eastern Sanag region was staffed with a few volunteers, most of whom lacked enough experience to plan, supervise and implement field projects, especially in this crisis period, which needs careful analysis and appraisal of daily situation. Considerable progress has been made in staff selection, training and guidance in the reporting period. Terms of reference and job descriptions of responsibilities have been developed to avoid overlaps and to show clear lines of command. Curriculum vitae and performance reports have been prepared to keep staff records.

At present, the field office is staffed with eight staff members, divided into two units: the technical unit and the administrative unit. The two units are headed by a field manager who reports to the Djibouti-based Executive Director. The technical unit consists of three engineers for construction, water and machinery. They have been selected on the basis of their background in development work, academic background and ability to work in demanding community development schemes. The technical unit is responsible for planning field projects on water, construction, road maintenance and rehabilitation of health and educational facilities. So far, the unit has collected data and developed designs on over fifteen projects covering basic population needs in the area and are currently implementing activities on rehabilitation of schools and hospitals. A major constraint facing the unit is the shortage of basic engineering equipment for preparing designs and plans. Drawing boards, drawing paper, measuring tapes, surveying equipment and other necessary equipment are much needed by the unit. SDRA is currently approaching donors for assistance in procuring this equipment.

The Administration unit is headed by a chief administration officer who reports to the field manager and whose responsibility is to prepare financial procedures, maintain records, coordinate logistical matters, supervise stores and prepare financial reports. The head of the unit is an experienced auditor who once headed the auditing department of the northern regions of Somalia. He is assisted by a store keeper, a volunteer general service officer and an office secretary.

The field office has been equipped with new office furniture, including desks, filing cabinets, chairs, cupboards, a safe, bookshelves, office calculators, typewriter, stencil machine and stationery.

1.3 SDRA Documentary Film

In order to document activities and to inform the public about the activities of the agency, SDRA initiated the production of a documentary film in March, 1993. A professional photographer working with SDRA on a part-time basis conducted the filming work, while film editing was done in a studio in Djibouti. The twenty-five minute film is narrated in Somali, Arabic and English. Copies have been sent to the communities, donors, and interested groups in several countries. The development of the film has made significant contributions toward better understanding and appreciation of the agency's role and responsibilities.

1.4 SDRA Newsletter

To date, information on development, relief, rehabilitation and social matters is scarce in Somalia and is not documented, especially in the Sanag region where no newspapers or magazines are

produced or circulated. In 1992, SDRA made plans to produce a monthly newsletter in English to acquaint the international and local communities on the scope and objectives of its programs and to bring to light the thinking and knowledge of local professionals. This activity was delayed by resource limitations, but SDRA succeeded in receiving a small printing machine in July, 1993. The machine has been donated by German Agro Action. The first issue of the newsletter will be produced at the end of August. Articles have now been compiled for the first issue, which will be produced in Badhan, Somalia. The main topics to be covered include: Relief, development, economy, geography and environment, as well as coverage on current SDRA regional and national activities.

4.0.5 SDRA Constitution and By-Laws

In early 1993, the original constitution and by-laws of the agency were revised to reflect the certain realities which have arisen in the course of operations in Somalia. A Somali lawyer has been recruited on a short-term basis to incorporate necessary changes for review by the board of directors. The final version, written in English and translated into Arabic, was produced in March, 1993.

4.1. Assistance to Destitute, Displaced People and Refugees

The presence of a large number of war victims in the Sanag region struck SDRA officials when initial planning activities were being conducted in mid 1992. Destitutes whose economic base, such as livestock production, farming and commerce, had been destroyed by the war, have gathered in large numbers in the region, with no means to support themselves. Displaced people from other regions of Somalia were also arriving in large numbers and needed food, medical help and shelter. The emotional and economic problems created by the presence of a large number of Somali refugees in Kenya while their families stayed in the Sanag region was also of major concern. Other vulnerable groups present in the region included: Orphans, handicapped people and the elderly, having no immediate family support. In view of this, SDRA initiated support for these people, with immediate attention paid to providing food support (Table 8). The program consisted of the following four projects:

4.1.1 Assistance to Destitute and Displaced People - Phase One

This project was financed by German Agro Action and focused on the provision of 400 tons of food consisting of rice, sugar, edible oil, beans and common salt. The food was airlifted from Djibouti to the Elbuh airstrip in the Sanag region in December 1992, and from there transported by trucks to the needy people. SDRA was responsible for the registration of beneficiaries, distribution of food, coordination of field logistical needs and monitoring of

TABLE 7

QUANTITIES OF FOOD AID DISTRIBUTED BY SDRA
FOR THE PERIOD OF 1992-93

COMMODITY	QUANTITY(Tons)	DONOR	BENEFICIARIES
Rice	547.95	GAA	Displaced and Destitutes
Oil	118.90	GAA	Displaced and Destitutes
Beans	715.30	GAA	Displaced and Destitutes
Sugar	130.40	GAA	Displaced and Destitutes
Salt	5.00	GAA	Displaced and Destitutes
Flour	148.20	MCC/CFGB	Feed Returnees
Sugar	12.00	MCC/CFGB	Feed Returnees
Beans	30.00	MCC/CFGB	Feed Returnees
Oil	12.00	MCC/CFGB	Feed Returnees
Sorghum	26.00	IRA	Displaced and Destitutes
Sugar	3.00	IRA	Displaced and Destitutes
Oil	6	IRA	Displaced and Destitutes
Clothes	150 bundles	IRA	Displaced and Destitutes

project impact. The project covered the food needs of nearly 8,500 families for a period of three months. German Agro Action mission supervised the coverage of the project and described it as extremely satisfactory.

4.1.2 Assistance to Destitute and Displace People - Phase Two

This project was a follow-up to the previous one and also focused on food aid to destitute and displaced people. The project, funded by German Agro Action, consisted of 1200 tons of food, including rice, sugar, edible oil and beans. The food was transported by sea from Djibouti to Elayo in the Sanag region in January and February of 1993. Four Dhows transported the food, sometimes under unfavorable weather conditions. SDRA was responsible for unloading, transportation, storage and distribution to target communities. Nearly 50,000 people benefitted from the project for a period of 3 months, which coincided with the dry season of the year when local food production capabilities were low.

4.1.3 Refugee Repatriation

In early 1993, SDRA joined forces with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) to assist in the repatriation of refugees from camps in Kenya, who were originally from the Sanag and Sool regions, to join their families and relatives in these two regions. Following consensus and acceptance from local traditional leaders and authorities, and upon voluntary acceptance of the refugees to be repatriated, SDRA and UNHCR started the operation in February, 1993. The Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) and the Canadian Food Grains Ba(CFGB) joined in and provided food for 6 months for the initial 3,000 people to be repatriated.

The role of SDRA was to register the returnees while in camps in Kenya, receive them at the airports in Somalia, distribute food to them and arrange for their onward transportation to their final destinations. SDRA was also responsible for food purchases from Djibouti, transportation, clearance, storage and distribution in Somalia. In the Sool region, SDRA made arrangements with Steadfast Voluntary Organization (SVO), a local non-governmental organization, to assist the returnees with food, accommodation and transportation.

From February to June, 1993, a total of 2229 refugees were flown from camps in Kenya and taken to areas in the Sanag and Sool regions, where they joined their families and/or relatives (table9). Over 200 tons of food consisting of wheat flour, sugar, oil and beans were distributed to the returnees.

The project involved considerable coordination between Djibouti, Kenya, Ethiopia and Somalia, where the offices of the

TABLE 8 SEX COMPOSITION OF THE REPATRIATED REFUGEES

<u>Destination</u>	<u>No of Refugees to Repatriated</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>%</u>
Badhan	984	465	47.3	51.9	52.7
Lasanod	1245	628	50.4	617	49.5

various supporting organizations are located, as well as coordination with officials in camps in Kenya. Another major activity of the project was the preparation of ground logistics in Somalia, including security arrangements for the returnees and their properties. Timely preparations of fleets of trucks to transport the returnees to their ultimate destinations, with minimum setbacks and delays, was done with success. Equally important was the food management operation, beginning with purchase in Djibouti through sea transport by Dhow to Bosaso and final transportation to Badhan in Sanag and Lasanod in Sool region. Considerable care and caution was taken to avoid looting or food damage. The operation was handled successfully. UNHCR and CFGB officials who visited the area and witnessed the progress of the repatriation exercise described it as satisfactory. At present, SDRA maintains a record of the origins, names and destinations of the people repatriated through this project.

4.2 Assistance in the Revival of Key, Economic and social Sectors

The major economic and service sectors have suffered tremendously in the war period. SDRA believes that without a satisfactory recovery of the economic and service sectors, the present social and economic problems will continue unabated. A large number of unemployed people live in the Sanag region, many of them with skills which can be used for local development purposes. Livestock production, the backbone of the economy, is suffering from chronic water shortages, lack of disease control practices, market uncertainties and poor range management practices. Crop production, which has expanded in areas in recent years, is facing serious constraints, including lack of farm inputs, poor water management practices, marketing bottlenecks and absence of farmer training programs. Service sectors have also deteriorated in the war period. Schools and hospitals have suffered from direct destruction by gunfire, looting of parts and equipment and lack of incentives to attract qualified personnel. Because of these problems, most of the schools and hospitals have not functioned for the past three years. The number of school children is growing and the impact of disease under poor hygienic conditions is becoming more serious.

It is because of these considerations that SDRA initiated a program of assistance to revive key economic and service sectors and to build the base for future economic and social development.

The program has the following objectives:

- To remove limiting constraints in the livestock and crop production systems
- To increase the number of people employed in crop production

-To facilitate the involvement of international donors towards helping these sectors

-To revive the educational system of the area and facilitate the reopening of the school system

The program includes the following projects:

4.2.1 Improvement in the Availability of Quality Water for Domestic Uses and for Livestock Production

Water shortages is a chronic problem in the region as both quantity and quality of existing supplies do not satisfy the growing demands of people and livestock. The deep boreholes which provide the water for livestock and people are affected by regular failure of power systems and deterioration of distribution systems. SDRA therefore considered water development as a matter of immediate priority. It is against this background that a project to rehabilitate water points was designed in December, 1992, by a joint SDRA/MCDI team. Funding for the project has been provided by the African Development Bank (ADB) and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). The project water engineer arrived on August 23, 1993, to assess the status of the wells, procure parts and to make emergency repairs of the wells, where possible. The project will install new power systems and improve storage and distribution systems in six locations which depend on boreholes for their water needs. These are also areas where the bulk of the livestock population in Eastern Sanag region is concentrated. The locations are Yube, Armale, Hingalol, Elbuh, Dhahar and Baragta Gol. SDRA field engineers have compiled an inventory of the equipment and supplies needed for each well, and have been doing maintenance work for the past one year. The project will also improve water sanitation in the target villages, thus reducing the hygienic problems associated with the existing water deficit situation.

Another water development project is the improvement of water hygiene for the town of Badhan, which is the administrative center of Eastern Sanag region. The project is funded by the UNHCR. Work has been started to build a wall, install two tanks, each holding 10,000 cubic meters of water, and set up a distribution system to take water to public watering stations. The completion of this works will result in improved water hygiene since direct watering from the well by the people and livestock will be avoided.

Other types of water development have also been planned. An inventory of existing water resources has been compiled, including registration of the numbers, locations and conditions of these water points. So far, a total of 200 surface water points, with varying sizes, have been registered.

Rehabilitation requirements have been investigated and project proposals focusing on areas where surface water points are the only source of drinking water for the people have been developed. The town of Hadaftimo, with a population of nearly 4,000 people, is a typical example of a growing settlement where the only source of water are surface water points, or "berkeds".

Water from shallow, hand dug wells is another area which has been considered for improvement. There are around 170 hand dug wells in Eastern Sanag region and their water is used for a variety of purposes, including human consumption, livestock watering and for irrigation of small gardens. Hand dug wells, however, suffer from accumulation of sand and dirt as covering of the well opening is not practiced.

Collapse of the walls is also a problem. SDRA compiled an inventory of the number of shallow hand dug wells, their location and condition, and prepared a project proposal to rehabilitate them.

4.2.2 Reintroduction of Veterinary Services to Improve Livestock Production

Proliferation of livestock diseases in recent years is a major cause of high livestock mortality, which leads to low meat and milk production. Disease control has therefore been considered as a priority in livestock production improvement. The major activity undertaken was to include an animal health component in the deep well rehabilitation project. A veterinary specialist was recruited along with the water and sanitation expert in December, 1992, to develop plans and proposals for revival of veterinary services. The veterinarian prepared a component which has been produced along with the water component. The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) donated enough drugs to treat camels, sheep and goats and cattle for common diseases of the area. A team of three local veterinary doctors have started preliminary investigation and treatment of the diseases with supplies from Action Aid, an international NGO based in Erigavo. The veterinary component is scheduled to start along with the water component.

4.2.3 Improvement of Agricultural Production in the Mountain and Coastal Area

The most important activity undertaken to improve crop production in the area was to recruit an international consultant to conduct a feasibility study on ways to improve mountain and coastal crop production systems. The consultant, funded by German Agro Action, made field investigations on June, 1993, and submitted the report on August, 1993. The report is currently under review by the SDRA and German Agro Action. Another activity in crop production has been to distribute vegetable seeds provided by German Agro Action to farmers in the mountain areas. The results

of the consultant's survey will form the basis for a longer term agricultural development in the area.

4.2.4 Revival of Health Services

The focus on health improvement has been to rehabilitate health facilities and to conduct a study on ways and means to improve the health situation of the area. Because of deterioration of the condition of the hospitals, a rehabilitation program has been designed, with construction material provided by German Agro Action. The Badhan hospital has been selected as the first building to be rehabilitated. SDRA engineers developed the plans and costs of the operation, and rehabilitation work is progressing.

With respect to developing regional health plans, SDRA recruited an experienced health manager to prepare a manageable health package for the area. Field work was completed in June/July and the final report has been submitted for review (Table 10). The main feature of the report is to de-emphasize the development of hospitals and promote the role of health posts and health centers. This is because hospitals require considerable logistical support and staffing which are not readily available. Food, clothing, pharmacy and a large number of medical and support staff will be needed. Another feature of the health report is to emphasize primary health care, where sanitation, nutrition, preventive medicine and health education are strengthened. The report recommends several categories of Health service, based on population distribution in the area (Table 11)

4.2.5 Revival of the Education System

The education system of the area has not functioned for the past three years. Schools have become homes for families displaced from other areas, and in the absence of maintenance, the buildings have deteriorated. Walls have cracked, windows and doors are missing and school furniture has been destroyed.

The preliminary activity undertaken has been to conduct a survey of the number of schools, their condition and their rehabilitation requirements. SDRA Engineers completed this work in June, 1993. Similarly, the number of families occupying the school buildings in the area have been registered and the local communities have taken the responsibility to evacuate the buildings from the present occupants. Once this is completed, SDRA will start a major school rehabilitation program with construction materials already provided by German Agro Action.

Recently, a team of former education staff joined forces with SDRA to speed up the work toward reopening the schools in the area. Headed by an experienced education specialist, the team registered over 100 former school teachers in the area and produced basic information on the schools, students and the requirements for

TABLE 9 : DISTRIBUTION OF EXISITING HEALTH FACILITIES IN THE GEOGRAPHICAL ZONES OF EASTERN SANAG REGION

<u>Facilities</u>	<u>Total No</u>	<u>Coast</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>Ogo plateau</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>Moutain</u>	<u>%</u>
Hospital	2	1	50	1	50	-	0
Health centre	3	0	0	3	100	-	0
Clinics	3	0	0	3	100	-	0

Notes

1. Most of the facilities in the area are found in the Ogo plateau
2. There are no health facilities in the mountain areas
3. One hospital in Laskoreh is the only health facilities in the coast.

TABLE 10

SUMMARY OF PROPOSED HEALTH FACILITIES
IN THE EASTERN SANAG REGION

TYPE OF HEALTH FACILITY	EXISTING	PROPOSED	AREA TO SERVE
HOSPITAL	2	1	District Towns of 1,000-8,000 Population
HEALTH CENTER	2	6	Large Villages 3,300 to 5,000 Population
CLINIC OR HEALTH POST	7	18	Small Villages 500 to 2,000 Population
MOBILE UNITS	NIL	2	-Nomadic Populations -Epidemic Outbreaks -Isolated Areas

teaching materials (Table 11). In early August, 1993 UNICEF supplied a school kit to provide supplies for 200 students for 6 months.

TABLE 11

STATUS OF THE SCHOOLS IN EASTERN SANAG REGION

LOCATION	TYPE	[Number of]			CLASSES FUNCTIONING
		CLASSES	TEACHERS	STUDENTS	
Badhan	Prim\ Second	27	35	1250	3
Hadaftimo	Primary	6	8	260	0
Armaleh	Primary	2	2	60	0
Elbuh	Primary	3	3	120	0
Buran	Primary	12	22	180	0
Dhahar	Primary	5	6	170	5
Baragtacol	Primary	3	3	85	0
Habasha	Primary	2	2	60	2
Hingalol	Primary	3	3	50	0
Laskoreh	Primary	6	7	350	0
Durduri	Primary	2	2	70	2
Midigale	Primary	2	2	75	2
Yube	Primary	2	2	75	0
Marage	Primary	2	2	80	0
Galgala	Primary	6	7	320	0
Elaio	Primary	3	3	150	0

4.3. Improvement of Access

To the Region

When SDRA activities in the Sanag region were being initiated, a problem which faced authorities was the poorly developed physical infrastructure especially as regards the eastern Sanag region where SDRA was concentrating. Landing sites were either not present or in extremely poor condition. Roads have similarly deteriorated due to lack of maintenance. The combination of these factors resulted in difficult access to the region and in restricted movement of goods and services within the region. To rectify the situation, SDRA initiated an infrastructure development project which focussed on the maintenance of airports and roads. In mid 1992, a new airstrip was developed in Badhan, while the airstrips at Elbuh and Laskoreh were rehabilitated. The Badhan airstrip has been used by large size aircraft including American C130 and Russian antinoffs. The Elbuh airstrip has been used for the delivery of food aid provided by German Agro Action in 1992.

With respect to roads, emphasis has been put on the rehabilitation of the Geldora road which connects the coastal areas with the hinterland. The 95 km long road constructed in 1960's has deteriorated in recent years due to lack of maintenance. In early 1993, SDRA sent a team of local engineers to make a survey of the roads, to recommend feasible rehabilitation works. The engineers developed a rehabilitation plan which will be implemented on a food for work basis. The food, and tools for the project have been donated by German Agro Action and the rehabilitation work is scheduled to start in September, 1993.

4.4 Protection of the Natural Environment

The Eastern Sanag region has valuable plant and animal species, some of which are facing severe threat from human actions. The Beira Antelope which inhabits the mountain areas is an endemic species which is registered as an endangered species.

Based on information from local sources the distribution of the animal is nowadays restricted into very small areas, and has disappeared from most of its former territory. To assess the situation, and to come up with plans for protection, SDRA sent an expedition to the mountain areas in June, 1993. The team was led by SDRA photographer and carried filming equipment to document the presence of the animal in the mountain areas.

After 45 days in the mountains the team came up with some interesting results on the distribution of the animal. A herd of 2-3 animals have been spotted in the very high elevations, in the south facing mountain slopes. While in the North facing slopes a herd of 4 animals have been seen and filmed. The animals are being filmed

equipment to get a complete picture of the animal before it disappears into the juniperus forest. Local nomads reported that in the recent past large herds of 10-15 animals were commonly seen in the area, meaning that the animal has been severely reduced by human interventions. Proliferation of fire arms is a major contributor to the reduction of the numbers of the Beira, since its meat is highly valued by the local people. The survey team will resume its work in september to come up with appropriate protection plans for the animals.

4.5 Promotion of viable local organizations

One of the objectives of SDRA was to help develop other local organizations who could take their role in the development of the areas. In this connection SDRA assisted three local organizations and is currently working with them to undertake specific activities needed in the area. These organizations include :

4.5.1 Badhan women's organization :

This group founded in March, 1993 intends to held develop women skills, set ip income generating activities, and promote the overall participation of women in regional development. SDRA assisted the organization in office establishment, election of officers, development of bylaws, stationary, and office operating cost. The organization was represented in the AddisAbaba humanitarian conference for Somalila of March, 1993. SDRA technicians are currently assisting the organization in the identification and design of viable women's development projects. A mission comprising two professional females supported by SOMALAID, was fielded into the area on July, 1993, and is currently working on the development of women's projects including the design of mother and child Health Centres (MCH). SDRA coordinated this work on behalf of SOMALAID.

4.5.2 Warsan Voluntary Organization :

This is a local NGO whose objective is to conduct sanitation activities in the region, including garbage collection, waste disposal and youth education on hygiene. Headed by an experienced civil servant, the organization has developed plans for garbage disposal in five urban centres in the area. SDRA is assisting the organization in food aid to implement some of its activities on a food - for work basis.

4.5.3 Somali Youth Rehabilitation Society (SYRS) :

This is a local NGO whose objective is to promote sports, arts in door games, and theatre to help in the popularization of socially-desirable activities and to divert the youth from engaging in socially-destructive practices such as kat chewing, crimes, and tribalism. Although still young, the organization is becoming very popular among the youth in the area, and has already started on rehabilitation of soccer fields. In Badhan the society has organized two soccer teams, and is planning to extend its activities to other urban areas. Its initial efforts is largely due to the favorable community status enjoyed by its founder, a renown poet and composer who has been repatriated from Kenya through the SDRA / UNHCR repatriation project. SDRA is assisting the society to get support for its activities including contact with donors, project preparations, and sport equipment.

UNICEF donated sport kit including footballs has been given to the society to continue with its sports promotion activities. Already SDRA has identified a renown Somali writer and artist based in Djibouti to development a comprehensive program for the society.

4.5.4 Sanag Agriculture Development Corporation (SADCO)

This is a local NGO whose objective is to promote agricultural development in the region and is based in Erigavo. The organization has already development a fruit and forestry tree species nursery in Erigavo. The seedlings are sold to the farmers at acceptable prices and the demand for the trees is increasing. Headed by an experienced agricultural specialist, the organization intends to develop four more nurseries in different agricultural areas in the region, and has asked SDRA for assistance. SDRA contacted donors for this project and has received funding from German Agro Action to implement the project. The project which has been revised now includes the training of agricultural technicians on nursery management techniques.

4.5.5 Other Cooperating local Organizations

Several other organization not assisted directly by SDRA are also cooperating with the agency on certain relief and development projects. In Lasanod SDRA is collaborating with stead Fast Voluntary Organization (SVO) on the repatriation of refugees from Kenya. In Hargeisa, SOMAID is collaborating with SDRA on the design and implementation of a mother and child Health project which cover North West, Sanag and Sool region.

4.6 Assistance to international Organizations

Several international organizations who operate in the area, but who have no direct representations in the field rely on SDRA for logistical matters, reporting and for general information on the area. UNICEF who is now assisting MCHS in the area is directing its support through SDRA who facilitates transportation, financial reports, and communication with the area. Workers samatarian Foundation (ASB) of Germany is also directing its assistance to local hospitals through SDRA.

4.7 Assistance to regional peace efforts

Like other regions of Somalia, Sanag region has suffered from the effects of the nationwide civil war. The region is inhabited by several clans who in the past enjoyed reasonable stability.

However in 1988, civil war broke in the region and caused tremendous material loses and human casualties. As a result the town of Erigavo which was the regional capital became deserted as different clans who lived in the city retreated to their respective territories due to an increase in hostilities. Fighting between clans continued until late 1991, leading to further proliferation of hostilities and disruption of the traditional social system. However in 1992, clan elders organized a series of mini conferences to resolve their differences and to build up the base for a durable peace in the region. Following successful convening of conferences in Yube, Jidali, Shimbiraalle, Garadag and Dararweeyne, the clans decided to hold a grand peace conference in Erigavo in July, 1993. To accommodate more participants and to ensure an effective outcome from conference, the clans asked SDRA for logistical support.

Recognizing the vital role of peace in this areas, SDRA provided support in terms of food, fuel, utensils, electricity to the conference venue, bedding, stationary and secretariat assistance. The conference is continuing with participants from all the clans in the region, as well as delegates from other neighboring clans.

TABLE 12
SUMMARY TABLE OF PROJECTS
IMPLEMENTED BY SDRA 1992-93

PROJECT TITLE	DONOR	FOCUS	COOPERATING AGENCY	STATUS
Assistance to the Destitute and Displaced	GAA	Food aid to the Destitute	German Agro Action	Complete
Assistance to the Displaced	GAA	Food Aid to the Displaced	German Agro Action	Complete
Assistance to the Displaced	IRA	Food Aid to the Displaced		Complete
Emergency Water Supply	USAID/ ADB	Rehabilitation/ Water Points- Veterinary Services	MCDI	Ongoing
Revival of Social Services	GAA	Hospitals, Rehabilitation of School	German Agro Action	Ongoing
Refugee Repatriation	UNHCR/ MCC	Repatriation/ Somali Refugees from Kenya	UNHCR/SVO	Complete
Badhan Water Point maintenance	UNHCR	Improvement in Water Sanitation	UNHCR	Ongoing
Agricultural Study	GAA	Survey of Agricultural Resources	German Agro Action	Complete
Food Assist./ Needy People	GAA	Food for Work	German Agro Action	Ongoing
Environmental Survey	SDRA	Survey Wildlife Status	SOMAL AID	Ongoing
Institutional Support to SDRA	SOMAL- AID	Training, Office Equipment, Operational Resources	SOMAL AID	Ongoing
Mother and Child Health Centers	SDRA/ SOMAL- AID	Assist Mothers and Children in Sanag, Sool, Northwest	SOMAL AID SVO	Planned

TABLE 10 (Cont.)
 SUMMARY TABLE OF PROJECTS
 IMPLEMENTED BY SDRA 1992-93

Infrastruct. Development	SDRA	Development of Three Airstrips	Community	Complete
Health Survey	SDRA	Assess Health Facilities, Produce Health Plans	Community	Complete
Erigavo Peace Conference	MCC/ LPI/ GAA/ French Embassy	Peace and Reconciliation	Community	Ongoing

EXPERIENCE GAINED AND LESSONS LEARNED

of a year of operations in the Sanag region, SDRA started to and has implemented a regional approach to relief, mitigation, development, and resource management in an environment where no law and order have prevailed for the past few years. The experience gained in this period, including failures and successes is worth documenting here to guide the formulation of plans and strategies for future SDRA operations in Somalia, and to enlighten other sister organizations on the problems involved, the difficulties and policy options available. The issues discussed do not necessarily apply to other areas of Somalia as geographical, ecological, cultural, historical, political and social factors which influence the course of events might vary from one region to the other similarly, the approach, objectives, mandates, and time frame of operations of SDRA might vary to other organizations, some of whom specialize in social and economic issues. As time goes by, and as needs expand or diversify, other issues might become important and worth considering. Continuous updating, review and monitoring of these and other emerging issues might therefore be necessary. A summary of the major issues is as follows:

Community relationships, needs and expectations:

When SDRA arrived in Elbuh, Sanag region in September 1992 a meeting was organized and held with a large number of community representatives, including the Sultan, chiefs, youth, women, and other persons, militia leaders and women. The objective of the meeting was to discuss the problems and priorities of the community and to reach a consensus on the issues which required immediate attention. Food assistance to the destitute people, water, medical services, veterinary service jobs, schools, airports, roads and other issues were listed. In fact it is an environment where almost all basic social services have not functioned for a long time, and where no other local and international organizations have operated before. The priorities vary according to sources as there has been no regional plan acceptable to all villages and groups. According to one group the priority was livestock and water points, while in another it was a feeder road or a health center. The supply of food aid to support displaced groups was also regarded as an immediate priority. The different views expressed by different groups is due to the fact that the occupations and needs are not the same. Most urban centers and major towns are inhabited by a large number of people displaced from other regions. These people do not have livestock and see food aid as an immediate need, while the nomadic pastoralist in the area regarded water development as the most important request. At one location, both relief and development matters were discussed.

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5.3. The role of other small organizations:

The Somali society of today is affected by a complexity of problems and it is difficult to tell where the real solution lies. It is therefore important that the problem is addressed by as many specialties and thought groups as possible. In the Eastern Sanag region, SDRA started as the only organization working on relief, rehabilitation and development activities. However, this does not mean that there are no other local groups who can play these roles. Although not organized in the real sense of an institution these groups have demonstrated that they can have an impact. Sports groups who organized themselves and have developed working plans for sports promotion have been able to attract a considerable number of young people, some of whom previously engaged in socially destructive habits. The introduction of sports activities has become a step towards rehabilitation of the youth in the area. The development of women groups which began by holding debates for women on development and local family problems has also enlightened women on the roles they can play in rebuilding the society. Women are less engaged in politics than men and spend time on other important matters including community development schemes.

A group which can play a major role is the business community, some of which have considerable resources to contribute towards development of the area, including assistance to the work of NGOs. When SDRA was planning to take food for refugees from Djibouti, through Bosaso to Badhan, a major concern was the likelihood that the food would be looted on the way. To avoid this, SDRA used the services of a local trader who managed to take the food from Djibouti to Badhan in a relatively short time with no losses and with limited service charges. This is because traders have considerable experience in handling supplies. Their costs are low since they can negotiate with local dhow owners, truck drivers and porters more aggressively than organizations.

Food brought by relief agencies is seen as a free gift, belonging to everyone and is therefore more likely to be looted than food which is considered to belong to a trader. Furthermore, traders spend less on security arrangements and other protection practices which can raise the cost of the operation. Business groups can also play a substantial development role, if they get the right information and advice. A typical example is the recently established electric light company in Badhan. A young man came with a generator and electric equipment and started to provide electricity to the town which has not seen electricity for 15 years. Shops have started to work, small industries like carpentry have resumed their work, food storage became possible and social gatherings and security of the town have improved. Other business men are now discussing the possibility of joining in and replicating this work in other places.

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There are other areas where business groups can have an impact. Agricultural equipment, veterinary medicine, fuel import and small industries are possible areas of involvement in addition to trade in livestock and food items.

Artists are another group who can positively influence the course of events in the area. A local artist has recently made an initiative to develop entertainment for towns and villages with a view to popularizing desirable social values and ethics, promoting peace and enlightening young generations on reconstruction and rehabilitation. The group known as the Somali Youth Rehabilitation Society is a new initiative towards reconstruction.

The role of professionals is also emerging and some are actively making contributions towards specific economic and social sectors. In Erigavo, an agronomist has recently started tree nurseries to produce seedlings of fruit and forestry species which are highly demanded by local farmers. Oranges, lemons, gum trees, mangoes and other environmentally suitable species are produced and sold to farmers at reasonable prices. The organization known as Sanag Agricultural Cooperation is becoming popular in the region and is contributing towards increased agricultural production in the region.

These individual and group efforts have an important role to play in regional development and can serve as examples for other talented individuals or groups. However, very little is known about them and their efforts. It is therefore extremely important that these groups are supported and promoted to enable them contribute to regional and national peace, rehabilitation and development efforts. It is, in fact, worthwhile to develop programs and projects specifically designed to help emerging local organizations.

5.4 Institution Building:

A lot has been learned on the problems associated with the establishment and development of a local NGO in a time of crisis. SDRA was founded in May 1991 but did not start field operations until May 1992. This was because financial resources to develop the program, official travel, used communication facilities, collecting basic data and printing requirements were not readily available. It is questionable how SDRA activities could have begun without receiving initial contributions from its supporters. In fact, many well-intentioned local NGOs do not manage to pass through the initial planning phases due to lack of start-up funds for institution building. International donors who provide project support do not cover agency operating costs and expect local NGOs to be self-supporting. This is the major reason why there are only a few Somali NGOs who are capable of doing professional work despite their ambitious plans and humanitarian intentions.

Setting up the SDRA Djibouti office has not been an easy task. Cost of living in Djibouti is extremely high which raised the operating costs of the agency beyond expectations. Operations were therefore conducted with minimum staff and equipment. For the first six months only one staff member was running the agency work in Djibouti, while a two room apartment was used for both office and housing purposes. Secretarial facilities were shared with another office, while public communication facilities were regularly used. This was the only way to avoid substantial operating costs which were beyond the capabilities of the newly established NGO. Program development, project design, official contacts and field office support were conducted in these limited facilities which are, in fact, the basic needs of a new and developing local NGO.

Starting and developing the field office in Badhan has also been a demanding exercise. Initial staff members were volunteers who were proposed by the community, and consisted of nine people headed by a veterinarian. SDRA had no funds to cover the remuneration of all these and had to subsequently reduce them to two people. The latter arrangement was cost-effective and more efficient than the first, but the release of the seven volunteers caused antagonism and discontent as other values including community status and relationships which influenced community members were as equally important as professional background. In fact, a major criteria used by SDRA in addition to academic background was the degree of honesty the candidate demonstrated. This is a special criteria that needs to be considered seriously since this is an environment where a lot can go wrong if responsible officials are not fully committed to the cause of the NGO. Terms of reference and job descriptions were developed to avoid overlap and to show clear lines of responsibility.

The amount of time spent in the field by Djibouti officials was also important. In the beginning, little time was spent in the field due to shortage of staff and full-time work load in Djibouti. However, it soon became clear that without continuous back up and the presence of headquarter officials, progress of field work was slow.

The most crucial issue that needs the full understanding of the field staff is the approach they should take to pass the development message to the communities. Field officials need to understand that SDRA alone cannot make big changes in the region. Rather it is collective effort by the communities, individuals, other organizations, local authorities and SDRA that can make the difference.

The process of change in an area where the fabric of the society has been destroyed, is a long and complex one. This is why officials need to understand that their role is to stimulate and facilitate desirable changes, processes and developments, and to

identify and support suitable agents for this to happen.

5.5 Continuity of efforts:

Projects implemented by SDRA need to have someone to take their responsibility after they are completed. This is a serious matter in an environment where there is no organized local authority to take over completed projects. Hospitals, schools, and water points need someone to run them after they are rehabilitated and made operational as it is beyond the capability of SDRA to cover their operating costs once they are completed. However, projects vary according to their immediate benefits. Water points are managed by their operators who collect fees from livestock and people. Projects which do not bring immediate personal benefit are unlikely to attract someone to maintain and safeguard their continuous use. Airstrips which are not used by commercial aircraft and rural roads fall into this category. The Badhan airstrip developed by SDRA is now guarded by two people who are paid on a food-for-work basis.

In view of this, it is important that local communities receive some organizational support and advice especially on the management of relief and development projects, and on the protection of public utilities. In the Eastern Sanag region SDRA has helped the communities to set up specific committees to deal with certain issues such as water point management and rehabilitation of health and education facilities.

The committee works side by side with SDRA officials who consult with them on matters related to health education and water and to explain to them the roles and inputs expected from the community. This arrangement, although still under test is far better than situations where SDRA alone plans and implements projects.

5.6 Benefits of working with sister organizations:

In mid 1992, SDRA joined forces with Medical Care Development International (MCDI), an American PVO who specializes in health and sanitation projects in developing countries. In December, 1992 a joint team from the two organizations visited the Sanag region and developed a project on emergency water rehabilitation in the region. With funding from USAID, ADB started the operations and is making a substantial impact on water availability in the region. The arrangement was beneficial to both organizations. SDRA works in the field and conducts data collection, specification of required parts, and preparation of reports. On the other hand, MCDI works on fund raising, procurement, overseas contacts, repair and maintenance of wells and training of SDRA field staff. The collaboration between the two organizations has resulted in substantial cost reductions for both organizations, and has resolved logistical bottlenecks which would be inevitable if the

two were not working jointly. This relationship has been instrumental in the successful planning, and implementation of a major water project and could lead to other areas of joint collaboration in the future.

5.7 Water fees

The boreholes of the region are used by large numbers of livestock, and the owners pay substantial fees to water their animals. However, the proceeds are not used by the community to maintain the wells which are marked by frequent failures of the parts. At the time of this report, two of the five boreholes in eastern Sanag are not functioning due to lack of spare parts. In the past, the borehole operators worked for the Water Development Agency (WDA) of Somalia. They collected revenues from livestock watering with a view to maintaining the wells and paying the remuneration of the operators. Currently, there is no government institution to run the wells. It is important that the community take the responsibility to collect fees and cover the maintenance requirements of the wells, including a supply of fuel and lubricants. This is an area where community management of a vital resource can be tested and supported.

5.8 The Impact of Food Aid

The distribution of relief food to the communities has been subject to controversy. A widely held view is that food aid causes social problems, including proliferation of hostilities, breakdown of security and it is difficult to administer. Many blame food aid for the chaos prevailing in places like Mogadishu and advocate the idea that if food aid were stopped, the unrest would subside. Others believe that food aid depresses local production systems and has a negative impact on commodity prices. SDRA has implemented several food aid projects in the Sanag region and has assembled quantitative and qualitative information on the issue. The experience and recommendations of SDRA to this effect are as follows:

The objective of the SDRA food aid program was to support destitute and displaced people in the region. This was very important as a large number of people in this category are present in the region. The criteria shared by these people is the alternative source of income to support them. Many of them are former government employees who have lost their jobs as a result of the war. People in this category rarely have livestock as most of them have been living in other places, such as Mogadishu, and came to the region as a result of the civil war.

Food aid to these people is a critical input and in many cases has been the only source of support available to them. A survey conducted by SDRA in eastern Sanag region on food aid dependence of displaced and destitute families revealed that 80% of the

households in this category survived on food aid, while 20% partially relied on food aid, supplemented by support from relatives. In the absence of food aid, these categories would have faced serious food shortages.

The other argument is the impact of food aid on local commodity prices. This argument has a valid basis as recent increases in food aid to Somalia has depressed local prices of imported food items. In the period of January 1993, till July 1993, prices of rice, wheat, flour and sugar have on the average decreased by nearly 50%. The effect of this on the local economy depends on the income level of the people concerned. For low income households, which comprise the majority of the population, this reduction in prices has been a positive change and improvement as it increased their purchasing power. More families can afford to buy food than before. On the other hand, the commodities affected are not locally produced, and do not employ large numbers of people. Vegetables, fruits and livestock are not imported. The most negative impact is on traders who are engaged in food imports.

The effect of food aid in livestock production is also worth examining. Food aid brought for displaced people finds its way to the nomadic pastoralists at relatively low prices. At present the reduction in food prices is said to have caused nomads not to sell livestock for export, since they can satisfy their grain requirements by selling fewer animals. The fact that the prices of livestock have not decreased in the past six months, despite decreases in food prices, is an indicator of the food aid effect on the livestock economy and discourages the livestock exporting business community. This reduction in livestock sales could have a long-term impact on the resource base. Increased animal numbers could lead to range land deterioration.

PART SIX: RECOMMENDATIONS

6.1 General Recommendations

The Sanag region as it is today is a manifestation of an adverse combination of natural, anthropogenic, political, and economic forces with limited resources to tackle them. As a result of civil unrest the traditional economic base of the region including livestock production, crop production, artisanal fishing frankincense production and trade have considerably deteriorated leading to an overall worsening of living conditions.

Social services such as education and health are rudimentary and are unable to provide minimum population needs. Poorly developed road networks present transportation problems between major geographical zones of the region and limit the development of good agricultural land in the mountain and coastal areas.

A natural environment marked by aridity and susceptibility to degradation introduces an element of fragility into the production systems and calls for careful and selective interventions which give special prominence to environmental protection.

Present and future efforts to rectify the situation will depend largely on the development of appropriate organizational systems and institutions, as well as on the success of the present peace making and reconciliation process. The will and attitudes of the local people and their readiness to participate in regional reconciliation, rehabilitation and development will volume of inputs, coverage and success of the assistance provided by the international community. On the basis of above considerations, the following recommendations are made.

6.1.1 Building up the Institutional Basis

Absence of professional institutions to plan, implement, and monitor projects and programs, is a major problem facing the region. Prior to the onset of the civil war, a large number of governmental institutions covering both service and economic sectors operated in the region. Agriculture, livestock, water resource development, health, education and supporting law enforcement institutions existed in the region levels. However, most of the institutions were poorly staffed and lacked adequate financial and technical resources to be effective. Coordination between the institutions was poor and their activities sometimes overlapped, which resulted in high operating costs. This is why years before the onset of the war most of these institutions functioned at a very low capacity.

Rebuilding the institutional base should therefore learn from

experiences of institutional development in Somalia and in the region, with particular emphasis on promotion of local specialized non governmental organizations. A number of these institutions are operating in the region and are providing services in agriculture, livestock, health, education, women development, and support to the destitute and displaced people. However most of them are constrained by lack of financial resources to cover their operational requirements. As a result most are unable to recruit locally available professional staff, and to acquire basic office and field equipment and supplies. The role that can be played by international organizations including international NGOs is therefore to promote local professional organizations and to support them with advice, training, financial inputs, managerial, skills and technical resources. This joint arrangement will be far more superior than isolated interventions by international institutions, and will result in continuity of efforts after departure of the international staff.

6.1.2 Assistance in peace making efforts

Very little development will materialize if reasonable peace and stability is not achieved and maintained. Peace making efforts in the region have made substantial progress for the past one year. This was done on community initiatives and resources. The grand peace conference in Erigavo is a result of a series of conferences organized and convened by the clans in the past two years. The role of the international community in this process has been minimal, despite the fact that several organizations have ongoing projects in the region. No matter what field of specialization an organization focuses, it is extremely important to understand that with out peace very little can be done. It is therefore recommended that organizations working in the region should give special importance to peace making and should therefore include peace making components in their plans.

6.1.3 Promoting the role of the business community

Several important sectors of the economy have survived mainly through the efforts of local businessmen. Import of basic commodities, exports of livestock, and transport are three areas which are privately operated and which provide employment and income to a relatively large number of people. Businessmen are also getting involved in other sectors, Such as energy, agriculture and fisheries. Because of the incomes and employment they provide, business men have a large number of supporters and dependents and can therefore influence the course of events in the area. This is particularly important with respect to popularizing certain regional issues such as peace, and security. Some business men are already contributing to the convening of peace conferences in the region. This attitude needs to be promoted with particular emphasis

on the encouragement of the business community in the peace making process.

Assistance to the business community on information regarding international markets is a way of gaining the support and cooperation of the business community. Advice on possible areas of investment, feasibility studies, and market opportunities will also enlighten business communities and will improve their relationship with development workers.

6.1.4 Support to the traditional leadership

The clan system of governance is headed by traditional bodies, the most common of which are Garads, Sultans and Agils. It is through these traditional leadership that peace making in the Sanag region progressed satisfactory with limited outside contributions. The political aspect of the system in terms of negotiations between tribes, conflict resolution, and representation of the clan have been tested in the ongoing regional peace process. However the other aspect which has considerable potential is the involvement of the traditional leadership in resource management, revival of social services, and mobilization of communities in rehabilitation projects. Enlightening the traditional leadership on the importance of development activities and the role they can play is therefore important. However most of the traditional leadership lacks information and advice on the fields involved, which sometimes they see as being out of their traditional mandates. It is therefore recommended that concerned organizations take steps to enhance the role of the traditional leadership in community development projects and programs and to sometimes support them with resources to enable them make necessary contacts, and convene community meetings addressing basic development, relief and rehabilitation issues. The fact that they are the only system recognized by the local communities should not be overlooked.

6.1.5 Community Participation

Community support and participation in regional development efforts is an essential part of any project undertaken in this area. However several issues need to be understood to clearly identify the roles expected from the communities and to make necessary arrangements for ensuring that their support is gained. First, the communities are not used to undertaking collective community based projects. Almost all past developments were either made through the government or through private efforts. Recently NGOs and UN agencies have started projects in the area. Most of these projects will be handed over to the community when they are completed. However appropriate mechanisms need to be worked out to enable local communities to take this responsibility. Most of the time the communities are not aware of the objectives of

the developments which are taking place in their areas. It is therefore recommended that community awareness components are made an integral part of the development programs, with particular emphasis on the convening of a series of workshops in the villages to enable community members to interact with NGO staff and to join their efforts for local development purposes. Coordination between NGO and UN agencies working in a particular area is also needed.

6.1.6 The Khat trade

The leaves of a mild narcotic known as khat are consumed through out Somalia and the Sanag region is no exception. The number of people using khat have dramatically increased in recent years. In almost all villages people of different age groups are becoming addicts on this narcotic, which adversely affects the economy of households and is the cause of major social problems.

Daily individual khat intakes is in the order of half a kilogram which costs nearly 12 US\$. The quantities sold in major cities of Somalia depend on the size of the local population. In Bosaso for example average daily quantities sold are in the order of 3000 kilograms with a total value of 30.000 US\$. In places like Hargeisa and Mogadishu daily khat consumption reaches up to 15.000 to 30.000 kilograms respectively.

These quantities represent considerable drain on local resources as khat is imported from Ethiopia, and the proceeds, are taken in hard currently to Ethiopia.

Khat consumption also causes major social problems. High crime rates are associated with high khat consumption centers. Depletion of family resources as a result of increasing expenditures on khat by addict family members causes continuous family conflicts which sometimes results in divorce, and loss of parental care by children.

In early 1983, khat import was banned from Somalia and this act remained in effect until 1990. Although some quantities were smuggled into the country its widespread impact on the society was reduced. However because of the civil unrest and lawlessness prevailing in the country, khat import and consumption have substantially increased. If present trends on khat consumption do not change its effects on the society will amplify. It is therefore recommended that adequate investigations and studies are conducted on the effects of khat on the Somali society with a vision to identifying possible educational and economic solutions to the problem.

6.1.7 Improvement in the information base

The data and information compiled by the various governmental

and non governmental organizations in Somalia have largely been destroyed by the war and are no longer available locally. The number and distribution of human and livestock population, water resources, agricultural resources, and trends in the use of these resources is either not available or the information is not complete. Similarly information on soils , geological formations, flora and fauna, and climatic data needed for actual planning of projects is also missing. The condition of the facilities developed in the past is also hardly available and needs to be up dated and recorded for use. Recent SDRA surveys on water resources, health facilities and environment have revealed the conditions of some of the local facilities. However this information is not complete and its coverage is limited.

In the years 1979 - 1984, a U.K based firm conducted a nation wide survey of the static and dynamic resources of the country including the Sanag region, and produced volumes of information on soils, geology, water resources, human population, livestock population, crop production, and other important parameters. Although over ten years have elapsed since the information was produced, it will still serve a lot for the planning of rehabilitation and development projects. Colour and black and white maps at 1.250,000 scale also accompanied the texts.

In view of above it is recommended that information collection and its acquisition from sources such as the above mentioned firm is undertaken. Surveys and studies on specific subjects and issues of importance will play a major role in the design of appropriate interventions. Information exchange between agencies working in the region will also improve knowledge on local resources.

6.1.8 Enhancing the Role of Women in Rehabilitation and Development

The role and position of women in the Somali society is undergoing major changes, some of which resulted from the civil war. First, due to the large number of male heads of households killed in the civil war, more women are taking the full responsibilities of households. This increased the number of women engaged in livestock production, farming, and trade, implies that women are making important decisions including management of family and community resources. Secondly women are less involved in politics and in local conflicts than men. Third, khat consumption and its effects are not very popular among women and therefore do not represent major problems among women. Fourth, women recognize the importance of community development projects since their daily activities depend on the condition of local resources. Hauling water for households, child education, and caring for those who are ill are usually undertaken by women. The benefits of developments on these resources and facilities are therefore more recognized by women than men.

In view of these considerations it is recommended that community development projects give special prominence to the involvement of women in regional development activities. Of particular importance are the introduction of training programmes for women, involvement of women in community development committees, assistance to women development organizations, and promotion of income generating activities for women.

6.1.9 Technological Development

Production technology in almost all sectors is under developed, and is marked by low input/ low output practices and technologies. Livestock production is based on an extensive system of land use which promotes large herd sizes of low productivity over manageable herds with higher outputs. Similarly crop production technology is at low level. Basic horticultural practices like grafting and pruning are not widely known in the area, while soil and water conservation techniques like binding, contour farming, strip cropping and water harvesting are not practiced. It is therefore recommended that basic technologies of production are introduced into the area, and disseminated among the local producers, with particular emphasis on training of local peasants and pastoralists.

6.1.10 Environmental protection

The natural environment of the region is marked by aridity, and is extremely susceptible to degradation, and its disruption could lead to reduced incomes and overall deterioration of living conditions. It is therefore recommended that environmental protection components are made an integral part of any natural resource development programmes and projects undertaken in the area

PART SEVEN : SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FUTURE DEVELOPMENT
PRIORITIES IN THE SANAG REGION

The following area specific recommendations are made to guide the development planning of the region in accordance with the suitability of the different zones for different production systems and services.

7.1 OGO PLATEAU

This is largely an arid to semi-arid environment which is currently used for extensive livestock production. Human population is increasing and social services are rudimentary. The following specific recommendations are therefore made for this zone.

7.1.1 Livestock production:

Extensive livestock production is the most appropriate land use in the area. However, overgrazing and rangeland deterioration are already taking place and could result in long-term deterioration of the livestock economy. Carefully planned range management schemes are therefore required. This should start with an inventory of the dynamic and static rangeland resources including livestock, human population, vegetation, water, soils and the degree of degradation that is taking place followed by area specific range management procedures. Livestock exports from this area should be promoted as this will result both in increased incomes and reduction of the pressure on the rangelands.

7.1.2 Water Resources:

The existing numbers of water points are probably adequate for this environment. However, as most of the boreholes do not function on a regular basis, immediate rehabilitation of these boreholes is a priority. New borehole developments in this area should not be encouraged and future water developments should focus on surface water resources, except in urban areas where development of potable water is much needed. Veterinary development should focus on the promotion of private veterinary practitioners as well as the facilitation of commercial availability of veterinary drugs.

7.1.3 Fodder production:

The possibility of introducing fodder production schemes in this area lies in the combination of fodder production with water harvesting. Large areas which receive run-off from the mountain slopes are ecologically suitable for this development. However,

the technology of water harvesting and fodder production, including construction of water diversion structures and planting of suitable fodder species, needs to be introduced. If this is successfully undertaken, it can lead to the development of semi-intensive livestock production schemes.

7.1.4 Crop production:

Very little crop production is possible in this area due to edaphic and climatic limitations. Any crop production activity should therefore be handled with extreme caution.

7.1.5 Health services:

Most of the health facilities of the region are located in this zones but are not functioning due to lack of medical supplies and equipment. Rehabilitation of these facilities with emphasis on promotion of primary health care including health posts, MCHS, vaccination, sanitation and rural clinics is needed.

7.1.6 Education facilities:

Most of the schools in the region are located in this area but very few are functioning due to deterioration of buildings, lack of school supplies and lack of remuneration for teachers. Revival of the school systems is therefore an immediate priority. However, there is need for the promotion of skill training on livestock production, water resource management and small industries. The role of women in this should be recognized and the program should include women trainees on these subjects. Rehabilitation of the considerable number of youth who have been affected by the war as militia is also much needed.

7.1.7 Population distribution:

The highest population density of the region is found in this zone and the supportive capacity of the natural resource base is low. The priority in this area should therefore be to encourage movement of people to other underpopulated areas of the region through the promotion of attractive economic development programs in other zones.

7.1.8 Institutions:

Very few NGOS, most of who are short of resources, are working in this area. Only three international NGOS and few local NGOS are providing assistance. The development and support to local organizations on key areas is therefore an immediate priority. Agricultural, water resources, veterinary, health, education and environmental institutions are very much needed. Many of those local institutions who have started are unlikely to maintain their momentum due to shortage of financial and administrative support.

7.2 MOUNTAIN ZONE

The mountain areas are underpopulated and the number of human settlements are small. Access is difficult and social services are underdeveloped. Crop production is expanding in the area but serious environmental and technological problems exist and need to be considered in the development planning of the area. The following are therefore recommended:

7.2.1 Crop production:

Crop production is expanding in this area, thanks to the availability of natural springs and higher rainfall. Soils are mature and contain large quantities of organic matter. However, crop production is causing serious deforestation which could lead to accelerated soil erosion and consequent deterioration of the crop production system. It is therefore recommended that crop production in this area is encouraged with the introduction of conservation practices including tree planting, terracing and other mountain farming techniques and practices. The other limiting factor is the low level of experience and technology. In almost all agricultural communities, there has been no systematic horticultural planning. Basic horticultural practices like rotations, grafting and pruning are unknown. It is therefore recommended that appropriate plant production techniques are introduced. These and the conservation practices can be transferred from similar neighboring environments like Yemen where the technology has been in use for centuries. An immediate priority is to establish a tree nursery to produce seedling for common crops of the area including oranges, lemons, bananas and mangoes.

7.2.2 Infrastructure:

Access is a major problem in this area. Two types of roads are therefore recommended : regional roads which connect the mountain areas with the coast and with the plateau and feeder roads which connect the communities with one another. The development of these roads will play a major role in the marketing of agricultural produce from the area.

7.2.3 Health services:

There are no health facilities in this zone despite the widespread nature of certain diseases. Tuberculosis and eye diseases are common in this area. It is therefore recommended that a major health center is developed in a central location in the area to serve the mountain communities.

7.2.4 Education:

There are no schools in the mountain zone and it is the area

where illiteracy in the region is highest. In addition to opening formal schools, it is recommended that an agricultural school is developed in this area to teach basic agricultural principles and techniques of mountain farming is developed in this area.

7.2.5 Environmental protection:

The mountain area is environmentally important for the presence of the Beira antelope, an endemic species which is threatened by human interventions and for Juniperus forests. It is therefore recommended that an environmental protection program be undertaken in this area. This should be initially designed to protect the Beira antelope and the Juniperus forests.

7.2.6 Honey Production:

Bee honey is currently produced in the mountains, where a variety of nectar generating plant species are found. However, the technology is extremely primitive and uses burning practices which destroy the bees as well as the hives and results in low quality honey. Improvement of honey production techniques could result in expanded honey production in the mountain areas where ecological conditions are suited for good quality honey production. It is therefore recommended that honey production projects are undertaken in this area.

7.2.7 Frankincense Production:

Frankincense production has been a major income generating activity in the region, for a long time. Two species are found there and include : Bosweilla carteri (Mohor), and Bosweilla Dhajama (Yagar). The first produces a resin locally known as Beyo, while the second produces the Maydi resin. Little is known of the usability of the products, although pharmaceutical, cosmetic and chewing gum industries are known to use various grades of the product. Burning for religious purposes in both Muslim and christian societies is also another use of the product. Prices of the resin vary according to the quality of the product and market demands. The following is the average market rate for the two products in Djibouti:

Beyo	3-5 US\$ /kg
first grade	
Maydi	40-50 US\$ /kg
first grade	

The trees are abundant in the region and the neighboring Bari region, and grow in both North facing and South facing slopes of the mountains. Production has deteriorated in the past twenty years due to government monopoly of the marketing of the product.

Very little income is currently derived from the industry, despite its climatic edaphic and social suitability for the area. The industry is labor intensive and production goes through several stages including tapping, collection, sorting, packing, transportation and export, all of which can benefit the local economy. It is therefore recommended that frankincense production is promoted with particular emphasis on the improvement of marketing. The Swedish Academy of Sciences, in collaboration with the Somali Academy of Science and Arts, has done a comprehensive study of the marketing of frankincense in the 1980's. However because of the monopoly exercised by the government, the results of the study have not been made available to the public. It is therefore extremely important that this study is traced and updated to bring to light the steps needed for improvement in the marketing of frankincense.

7.2.8 Population:

The area cannot support large population increases unless the production and marketing technology is improved.

7.3 THE COASTAL ZONE

This area is relatively dry and high temperatures limit human habitation especially in the summer months. The following recommendations are made to enhance development in this area.

7.3.1 Fisheries:

Development of fisheries with emphasis on the development of cold storage systems to promote export fishing is a promising area of development. Artisanal fishing can be improved through assistance in fishing gear and through training of fishermen.

7.3.2 Crop production:

Crop production in this area is possible through the introduction of salt tolerant fruit and vegetable species. Already, date palms and vegetables are increasingly grown. The presence of shallow hand dug-wells is an advantage and can be used for the irrigation of coastal farming. However specific agricultural techniques and practices should be applied. Long fallows, wind breaks, strip cropping and other arid land cropping techniques are necessary. Care must be taken not to increase salinity problems as poorly planned irrigation systems can lead to the accumulation of salts on the soil and a reduction in crop yields.

7.3.3 Health facilities:

Human settlements in this area are small in number and so are the social services. There is one relatively large hospital in

Laskoreh, built by the Russians in the 60's in conjunction with the fish canning plant. Although the building has deteriorated, the hospital can be made operational if supplies are provided.

7.3.4 Education:

Schools exist in Laskoreh, Mait, Elayo and Hiis, none of which is operational at present. The revival of the educational system will follow the repopulation of the coastal areas which can take place if coastal development programs are undertaken. Because of the migrations from the coastal areas in summer (4 - 5 months), it is more appropriate to develop an educational schedule designed to fit the coastal living conditions. Training of marine resources management would help develop local utilization of these resources and would be instrumental in promoting a maritime-based economy.

7.3.5 Forestry:

The availability of ample ground water and surface water resources make it possible to grow a variety of forestry species which are suitable for coastal climatic and edaphic conditions. Concarpus (Damas) trees which reach a height of up to 20 meters grow in the beds of wadis. Since they can extract ground water through their extensive root systems. These species have timber value and were in the past used for boat building. Already large areas are covered with these species. It is therefore recommended that a forestry program to work on the protection of existing natural forests and to promote forestry plantations in coastal areas is initiated. The economic use of these should also be assessed with particular emphasis on boat building.

7.3.6 Livestock production:

Livestock production in this areas is based on an extensive system of production and land use marked by migrations to the mountain and plateau areas. Prospects for livestock development in this area lie in the introduction of water harvesting schemes which utilize the considerable seasonal run-off from the mountains which currently flow into the sea. Successful water harvesting can be the basis for promotion of fodder crop production for livestock fattening, especially for export livestock from the small ports of the region.

7.3.7 Salt making:

The coastal areas are ideal for the production of salt, very little of which is produced at present due to lack of appropriate salt-making technology. It is therefore recommended that the possibilities for salt making schemes are investigated and promoted.