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**Evaluation Report**

**Of**

**Sool and Sanaag Emergency Livelihood Project,**

**Somalia**

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**Constructed sand dam Latrines**

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# Abbreviations

CfW Cash for Work

FGD Focus Group Discussion

FSNAU Food, Security and Nutrition Analysis Unit - Somalia

OVI Objectively Verifiable Indicator

PRA Participatory Rural Appraisal

SSELP Sool and Sanaag Emergency Livelihood Project

ToR Terms of Reference

TSR Towards Self Reliance

USD United States Dollar

VSLA Village Saving and Loan Association

# EXECUTIVE SUMARY

**Introduction**

CARE Somalia has implemented a livelihood security project in four districts: Erigavo, El-Afweyn, Ainabo and Bo’ame of Sanaag and Sool regions of Northern Somalia. The overall objective of the project was to contribute to mitigate against further deterioration of food and livelihood security of populations affected by drought in the Sool and Sanaag region of Somalia through cash based intervention.

The aim of the project was to meet the immediate minimum food, water and sanitation needs of 38,160 emergency affected and vulnerable people in the Sool and Sanaag region by May 2012 through unconditional and conditional cash transfers of USD 70 per month for three months.

The SSELP intervention also put its focus on strengthening livelihoods at the level of households, with a particular focus on the protection/expansion of assets facilitated through the promotion of a savings and loaning culture.

The conditional cash for work intervention was targeted to facilitate investment into longer term resilience activities such as construction of sand dams, water ponds, household latrines, garbage dumps and rehabilitation of shallow wells, irrigation channels and access roads. The construction and rehabilitation of these structures as well as VSLA formation and training and other training in hygiene, gender, conflict and governance rationalized the cash based intervention of the SSEL Project.

**Purpose and objectives of evaluation**

The main objective of this final evaluation is to provide the donor, CARE and project stakeholders with an independent assessment of the achievements made by the project. The desired result of the evaluation is to:

* Assess in detail the relevance of the relief component against the current food security context of the project area.
* Assess the effectiveness of measures taken to ensure project achievements are not lost and provide suggestions for improving the sustainability of the project.
* Review the effectiveness and relevance of the selection criteria for areas, structures and cash for work participants. With a specific focus on the latter: the selection of vulnerable households for CfW.
* Assess the impact and sustainability of the Village Saving and Loan Association (VSLA) model and the linkage of the project relief component and its Village Saving and Loan Association (VSLA) component
* Assess the achievements of the project objectives and implementation against the criteria of relevance, efficiency, effectiveness, impact and sustainability.

**Relevance**

**Food security**

The SSELP design is a modified extension of the emergency component of ongoing Towards Self Reliance (TSR) project implemented by CARE in Sool and Sanaag. The TSR project has also a recovery component.

During the identification and formulation of the SSELP the food security situation in Sool and Sanaag was deteriorating. According to FSNAU, failure of *Dayr* 2010 followed by Harsh *Jillaal* 2011has caused depletion of pasture and browse, drying up of water sources leading to early water tracking and livestock conditions going from poor to very poor. Despite Good *Gu* (2011) rain in the region, the following *Dayr* (2011) rain was also below normal by 40%. The combination of the above several seasons rain failure have reduced livestock assets and increased indebtedness of the pastoral communities in Sool and Sannag (1). This had a tremendous negative impact on the livelihood security of the most vulnerable members of the community.

An assessment by CARE Somalia in August 2011 on the Somaliland Drought situation that was to ascertain impact and extent of drought on the humanitarian situation and make recommendation on appropriate emergency intervention found out that the drought had a negative impact on livelihood security especially on food security and access to water and sanitation (2). The CARE drought report recommended intervention such as cash assistance to allow flexible use of cash received to meet food and non food needs such as water and payment of accumulated debts.

The post emergency intervention period of February 2012, FSNAU had indicated the region has improved from emergency to crisis due to mainly humanitarian intervention.

The SSELP project injected cash to 2,300 household through cash relief and cash for work. This cash injection has helped improve food security situation in project area. Cash received was spent mainly on buying food, debt repayment and savings in VSLA which opened opportunity for borrowing during time of stress and thus strengthened the food security aspect of the project intervention. In addition, through the cash for work approach, the project intervention has helped in the construction and rehabilitation of structures which have long term impact on the livelihood security of the communities supported. These structures include construction and rehabilitation of check dams, sand dams and irrigation canals.

This evaluation both from questionnaire response and FGD has found out that the cash received was mainly used to buy food, water, debt repayment and health in that order of importance while cash borrowed from VSLA was mainly used to buy food, debt repayment, health care service and investment in that order of importance.

*1FSNAU Food Security and Nutrition Quarterly Brief - Outcome of Jilaal Dry Season, April 2011;*

*FSNAU Food Security and Nutrition Brief - Post Deyr 2011/12 Analysis, February 2012;*

*FSNAU Food Security and Nutrition Brief - April, 2012.*

2 CARE Somalia. 2011. Rural Women Impact Group Baseline Survey

**Efficiency**

The project budget seems to be adequate for the planned activities. However during FGD with committees and beneficiaries in the sampled villages the need for extended intervention in structures such as latrines and gully control is overwhelming. FGD in some of the villages sampled have shown the beneficiaries still need additional latrines and some of the gully control structures visited were incomplete and require extension to be effective. Most of the cash for work beneficiaries feel the wage of USD 70 is not enough compensation of 30 days labour although the beneficiary are not skilled.

Almost two third of project expenditure was used as direct cash injection to beneficiaries and provision of labour to construct 227 structures across 46 villages in four districts of of Sool and Sanaag region. The structures provided necessary water and sanitation services that are environmentally sustainable development.

The project management has invested time and resources in building good relations with elders, community leaders and other partners such as the local authorities. From the start of the project, management team worked with local population to build and enhance the capacity of the communities to identify, prioritise and address their needs through participatory process. Communities were informed about project objectives and strategies at the start of the project which made them fully aware about implementation process and requirement. This approach managed the expectation of communities and reduced risk of conflict over resources.

Village committees and elders took a very good contributory role in the project management. The committees carried out community mobilisation and meetings with CARE. Latter village committees in the presence of local authorities were handed over community infrastructure to manage on behalf of the community

The project intervention helped form 13 new VSLA and strengthen the capacity of 15 existing VSLA groups. The project has also trained VSLA groups. During the project period groups were formed and trained and 15 existing VSLA groups were capacitated. The response from sampled respondents indicates that 91% of those who participate in VSLA have received trainings while 98% are aware that their association have a constitution.

From observation and discussion made by the consultant with project engineer most of the structures were appropriate and adequate in terms of design and quality. One village visited by the consultant had a well designed check dam and gully control structure which had a feasible positive impact on the environment. Regeneration of vegetation was evident at the site where the gully control/check dam was done.

On the other hand, a garbage dumping site in one of the villages visited was found to be inadequate as it was shallow and had no embankment to be effective dumping site. Additional work gully erosion control in one village did not show design work but looked more of preventative measures to stop further erosion.

Overall the project budget achieved its intended objective of carrying out planned activities and delivering the planned results.

**Effectiveness**

Questionnaires collected information on the timing of project activities, the timing for cash for work, cash transfers and the performance of the village committees. FGDs with various groups, including VSLA members, village committee representatives and cash relief beneficiaries looked at challenges, problems and activities that had the greatest impact on the lives of project beneficiaries and their communities.

Over 95% of respondents sampled who benefited from cash for work or unconditional cash had a positive view about the timing of the cash payment. Overwhelming majority of respondents indicated that they were paid within 30 days after mobilisation at village level by CARE staff. Over 90% of respondents have good or excellent perception about the performance of village committees in managing the affairs of the community. Over 60% of the respondent perceives the sanitation condition is better while 75% of this respondent group attribute this change to project intervention.

Participants in FGD have reinforced these views and in addition were highly appreciative of structures such as latrines, check dams, and rehabilitated irrigation canals that had a positive impact on their livelihood security and sanitation.

**Monitoring**

Monitoring is a systematic and continuous collection, analysis and use of management information to support effective decision making. It involves monitoring of expenditure against budget, resource use in project activities, delivery of results and management of risk. Overall the project has a good monitoring plan. Quality of monitoring data is good as it captures:

1. Daily living expenses, number of households per day before project start and after project start;
2. Number of households in each village benefiting from project;
3. Reduction in household debt and ability to borrow again;
4. Number of target beneficiaries who have invested in productive assets after benefiting from program;
5. Segregation of beneficiary by gender and
6. Number of infrastructure realized and managed by village committees.

To report on progress against planned activities and results there is a regular monitoring report and quarterly progress report produced by programme officers and project manager respectively.

**Impact**

**Result 1**

Improved access to food for 13,800 emergency affected and vulnerable people through increased household income

1. 100% increase in the number of meals per household per day

The project has injected cash during drought period through relief and cash for work in order for vulnerable households to access food and other essential needs. According to project data 1402 vulnerable household with productive labour and 898 households with no members who can provide productive labour were selected through inclusive and consultative community identified selection process. Both groups were given USD 70 cash for three months. (See table 3-2 on page 29 for breakdown of cash delivery to beneficiary).

Information from questionnaire show 38% of respondent have indicated they have had change in meals increased by 100% to 200% meaning they increased there meals from one to two meals or from one to three meals during project intervention. About 54% had 50% increases in meals meaning that they increased their meals from two meals to three meals during project intervention. (See table 3-3 in page 30)

This indicator assumed that 100% increase in meals should mean an increase from one meal to two meals which is not the case. However, the overall assessment finds that 100% of beneficiaries had at least 2 meals per day

Project intervention also enabled establishment of 13 VSLA in Bo’ame district of Sool and strengthened 15 existing VSLA in the other three districts. VSLA has helped members save money once they receive cash and borrow during time of need to meet food and other essential needs during time of stress. Pattern of cash expenditure from project intervention and borrowing from VSLA show that expenditure was overwhelmingly on food.

1. Reduced indebtedness among 30% of beneficiaries with debts

According to analyzed data from questionnaire about 27% of beneficiaries sampled used cash received from project intervention to pay their debt. Another 44% of those who participate in VSLA and borrowed money from the pot used some of the cash to pay debt. On average the indicator on reduction of indebtedness by 30% beneficiaries have been achieved.

**Result 2**

Improved access to water, sanitation for 38,160 emergency affected and vulnerable people through increased purchasing power, water and sanitation coverage

1. 50% increase in access to water per capita per day

The planned approach of the project to increase water access per capita per day is from 5 litres to 7.5 litres making it 50% increase in access to water per capita per day. The assumption is that every household (6 person) will require to increase its water access from 30 litres to 45 litres per household per day. Towards this end, evaluation figures from respondents show that only 33.8% of the population had increased their access to water per capita per day by 50%

However, if we consider general increase in access to water per capita per day regardless of minimum water access of a household being 30 litres per household per day, over 100% of respondents have indicated 50% and above increase in access to water per capita per day. This means households have increased their access to water from as little as 20 litres per day to 30 liters or event to upto 80 litres.

1. 50% increase in sanitation coverage among beneficiary population

The main measure used in sanitation coverage in this project could be construction of latrines, garbage dumps, trainings in hygiene and improving access to clean drinking water. To this end the project’s planned figures of 110 latrines and 48 construction garbage dumps has been overachieved. The project managed to construct 126 latrines and 53 garbage dumps. 100% of planned rehabilitation of 5 shallow well has also been achieved. Training in hygiene was also conducted in the 46 villages.

Comparing sanitation condition before and after project intervention, 60% of sampled respondents have indicated the sanitation condition is better. About 75% of those who said the sanitation condition is better have attributed the positive change to project intervention. FGD with visited village committees and beneficiaries confirmed to the consultant this positive contribution is mainly due to construction of latrines and training in hygiene and to a lesser extent construction of garbage dumps and probably rehabilitation of shallow wells.

**Specific objective**

To meet the immediate minimum food, water and sanitation needs of 38,160 emergency affected and vulnerable people in the Sool and Sanaag region of Somaliland by May 2012.

1. Beneficiaries access 2 meals per day - This objective has been achieved. The overall assessment is that 100% of beneficiaries had at least 2 meals per day
2. Beneficiaries access at least 7.5 litre of water per capita per day - 33.8% of beneficiaries assessed have indicated access to at least 7.5 litres per capita per day. However the evaluation figures show that 100% have increased their access to water by at least 50%

Through cash for work 227 structures were constructed or rehabilitated which include latrines, shallow wells, check dams/gully controls, water ponds, irrigation canals, roads, garbage pits and sand dams.

**Impact of the projects on the purchasing power of beneficiary households and, as a result, their poverty reduction.**

From the baseline survey carried out in 2010 poverty was manifested as livelihood insecurity such as eating irregularly and income insecurity among other issues including lack of shelter and lack of kingship. The project has injected cash to the local economy of the 46 villages. This has tremendously improved the purchasing power of the beneficiaries. Money received was spent mainly on food and other essential needs such as water for household use, debt repayment, saving in VSLA and health in that order of importance. Some of those who saved in VSLA had the opportunity to borrow during time of emergency and this enabled them to have power to purchase goods and service. Borrowing from VSLA was mainly used to purchase food, debt repayment, health care service and investment in that order of importance. The project has therefore reduced poverty since the income of beneficiaries have increased thus increasing their ability to spend on food and other essential household needs

**The project approach to gender and its impact on gender equity and related issues**

The SSELP project which comes under Rural Women’s Program focuses on rural population with particular attention to vulnerable women. According to project report, 69% of project beneficiaries are women. Selection criteria used also included selection of divorced women, and household where household head is unemployed and had three adolescent girls. Village committees had at least 30% slot for female membership while the current percentage of women participating in these committees is actually 32%. The project also provided for training in gender, conflict and governance which aimed at empowering women. Further decision making in cash expenditure at the household level also indicated that decision were mainly made together by both husband and wife or by wife alone. However observation made during FGD is that still men are more informed than women about the SSELP intervention. Women are generally more conservative in the visited villages.

Overall the project had positive impact on gender equity as women who are mainly responsible for production at household level were empowered in terms of income. These has increased their decision making and purchasing power which contributes to poverty reduction.

### Possible intended or unintended impact on environment

The project intervention has had positive impact on the environment. Check dams have made regeneration of vegetation in degraded land possible through control of water erosion and gully formation. The construction of check dams at visited sites is already having a positive impact on the regeneration of grazing lands. 45% of respondents noted an improvement in ground cover in areas protected by check dams. This has met a clear and urgent need in villages where grazing land and arable land are being eaten away by gullies; slowing and halting the spread of gullies will have a positive long term impact on food security in these areas.

The deliberate selection of households practicing charcoal production as project beneficiaries also had a positive environmental impact as it discouraged charcoal production as a source of livelihood income. This approach saves burning of vegetation for charcoal.

Improved sanitation through construction of latrines has contributed to a healthy and save environment. Defecation in water ways and depressions have reduced due to construction and use of latrines.

**Sustainability**

From the start of the project inception the project management team has put a lot of time in consultation with stakeholders that ensured beneficiaries participate in project activities identification and implementation in order to enhance ownership of objectives and achievement. Government line ministries, regional and local authorities were involved in identification of areas most affected by drought. Within selected villages participatory rural appraisal exercise was conducted to allow communities to identify and prioritise activities to be implemented*.* The PRA carried out at the start of the project has increased community ownership of the project results and achievement especially with regard to identification and prioritisation of needs, implementation of activities and infrastructure management after completion of project activities.

In terms of institutional capacity of project stakeholders, village committees have played a significant role in facilitating the smooth running of the project. The committees were critical in the selection process of beneficiaries and implementation of activities. In turn the project team worked with these committees and empowered them through training and coaching to lead and participate in project implementation.

For example project reports show that the village committees brainstormed and identified needs and then prioritized their community needs, helped organize beneficiaries, assisted in the implementation of project activities, monitored ongoing activities such as construction of community structures and VSLA, kept record of attendance of cash for work beneficiaries as well as organized meetings/community gathering with the staff.

The committees were also oriented with project objectives and strategies at the start of the project which made them fully aware of the implementation processes and requirements. The committees were also able to carry out the community mobilization activities and meetings with CARE staff. Overall 46 village committees were established and are currently active, one in each village with members ranging from 7 members to 11 members of whom 32% are female.

Community members were trained on how to manage infrastructures developed by the project. Such trainings among others include management and maintenance of structures which aimed at building the capacity of the community so that they are able to handle the management and maintenance of project infrastructures. Many of the village committees have already implemented good initiatives include extension of check dams, maintenance of structures and so on.

The project also enhanced the leadership and managerial skills of the village committees through trainings, coaching, mobilizations and meetings with particular emphasize on attitudinal change. This resulted in action oriented grass root institutions

The project had a capacity building component which involved training of community members and village committees. The training to build the capacity of project beneficiaries include infrastructure maintenance training which prepared village committees for handover of project and its maintenance after project completion. VSLA training targeted members of VSLA in making an association and how to govern and manage VSLA association. Gender, conflict and governance training targeted village committees and elders to change attitude, make them gain skills in leadership

Structures such as irrigation canals, check dams and sand dams have a long term economic and financial sustainable effect o beneficiaries. Agro-pastoral and pastoral communities will have access to water for irrigation and livestock after end of project. This will enhance the livelihood security of beneficiaries and reduce poverty. Equally successful VSLA will play a significant role in making the project to economically and financially be sustainable after its completion as it will be a foundation for micro finance service.

**Conclusions** **and** **recommendations**

The project has significantly achieved its objectives*.* Significant progress has been made towards achievement of the results and project purpose. The project impact has contributed to the principle objective of ‘contribute to mitigate against further deteroriation of food and livelihood security of populations affected by drought in th Sool and Sanaag region of Somaliland’.

Cash was delivered and received by 2300 households for three months at USD 70 per month while 13 VSLA was formed and another 15 were strengthened through capacity building. Analysed information from sampled respondents show that over 30% of beneficiaries had reduced their debt from cash received or loans borrowed from VSLA. Generally 100% of beneficiaries have increased access to water by over 50% while over 60% of respondents have indicated improved sanitation condition. However, the duration of intervention was seen to be short and amount of cash intervention was generally small at USD 70 per month

The project impact, especially on construction of infrastructure and VSLA, is also sustainable as it has ownership and institutional capacity linked to beneficiary community through its village committees. The project achievement has long term benefit for example development of strong VSLA can have a long term positive impact on micro finance institution development in the region.

**Recommendation**

In future cash intervention during emergency, intervention period should be at least 6 months period intervention. Cash intervention should be at least USD 100 per month to have a better positive impact on livelihood security.

There is a need for a follow- up project in some of the visited villages such as completion of check dam to control water and Latrines construction.

**Lessons learnt**

1. Injection of cash into the village economy has improved income and food security and by extension reduced poverty
2. The participatory process approach has enabled Bo’ame district to identify and prioritise unique need of construction of school classess rather than other structures such as latrines as a project activity
3. Beneficiary payment for labour was linked to delivery of project activities instead of daily wage and were then paid at the end of the month after completion of assigned activities
4. The link of cash for work and unconditional cash transfer to VSLA was complementary. Beneficiaries saved some of the cash in VSLA
5. The project did not rush to create quick outputs but engaged in a slow, patient process of group formation and sensitization to gain trust and encourage participation at the community level.
6. The PRA exercise carried out at the start of the project has increased the community ownership. Village committees and other members of the community have been actively engaged in the implementation of project activities. Such involvement increased the capacity of the local people in terms of implementation of basic activities.

## 

1. INTRODUCTION

## Background

CARE Somalia has implemented a livelihood security project in four districts: Erigavo, El-Afweyn, Ainabo and Bo’ame of Sanaag and Sool regions of Northern Somalia. The overall objective of the project was to contribute to mitigate against further deterioration of food and livelihood security of populations affected by drought in the Sool and Sanaag region of Somalia through cash based intervention.

The aim of the project was to meet the immediate minimum food, water and sanitation needs of 38,160 emergency affected and vulnerable people in the Sool and Sanaag region by May 2012 through unconditional and conditional cash transfers of USD 70 per month for three months. It was envisaged that cash will infuse liquidity into the market and will invigorate local food and commodity trade and thus increase100% the number of meals per day, increase 50% access to water per capita per day, increase 50% in sanitation coverage and reduce 30% of indebtedness of project beneficiaries.

The SSELP intervention also put its focus on strengthening livelihoods at the level of households, with a particular focus on the protection/expansion of assets facilitated through the promotion of a savings and loaning culture.

The conditional cash for work intervention was targeted to facilitate investment into longer term resilience activities such as construction of sand dams, water ponds, household latrines, garbage dumps and rehabilitation of shallow wells, irrigation channels and access roads. The construction and rehabilitation of these structures as well as VSLA formation and training and other trainings in hygiene, gender, conflict and governance rationalized the cash based intervention of the SSEL Project.

## 1.2. Purpose and objectives of evaluation

The project’s final evaluation is a part of the agreement with CORDAID. The main objective of this final evaluation is to provide the donor, CARE and project stakeholders with an independent assessment of the achievements made by the project towards:

* the purpose of meeting the immediate minimum food, water and sanitation needs of 38,160 emergency affected vulnerable people through increased household income and how the above purpose has contributed to the overall project goal of to ‘Contribute to mitigate against further deterioration of food and livelihood security of populations affected by drought in the Sool and Sanaag region’.

The specific objectives of the final evaluation also include:

* Assess that funds have been used effectively and efficiently to deliver results;
* Improve future programme design and management;
* Record and share lessons to influence relevant policies;
* Account to local stakeholders for the programme’s achievements;
* Enable CARE to evaluate the performance of the project as a whole.
  1. **Desired Result**

Th desired result of the project evaluation is:

* To assess in detail the relevance of the relief component against the current food security context of the project area;
* To assess the effectiveness of measures taken to ensure project achievements are not lost and provide suggestions for improving the sustainability of the project;
* To Review the effectiveness and relevance of the selection criteria for areas, structures and cash for work participants. With a specific focus on the latter: the selection of vulnerable households for CfW;
* To assess the impact and sustainability of the Village Saving and Loan Association (VSLA) model and the linkage of the project relief component and its Village Saving and Loan Association (VSLA) component;
* To assess the achievements of the project objectives and implementation against the criteria of relevance, efficiency, effectiveness, impact and sustainability.

## The Scope

The final evaluation of SSELP covers implementation period from October 2011 to May 2012. The geographical scope of the evaluation is Erigavo, El-Afwayn, Ainabo and Bo’ame districts of Sanaag and Sool regions respectively. While the main emphasis is on measuring outcomes, the evaluation also covers the project concept and design, implementation, results and outputs. The evaluation report also includes findings, lessons learned and recommendations.

## Content

The report is composed of four sections and an executive summary. The first section of the report introduces the project and describes the components of the project, its objectives and the objectives and scope of the evaluation assignment.

The second section describes the methodology and approach used in carrying out the evaluation. Section three discusses the findings of the evaluation and section four is the conclusions reached, recommendation and lessons learnt.

Annexes include the following:

* TOR
* List of participants
* Map,
* Questionaire

# 2. Methodology and approach

## Introduction

The section describes the method and approach used by the consultant to conduct this end of term evaluation. It presents the objectives pursued and the steps followed by the evaluation team.

## Methodology

To achieve the evaluation objectives outlined above, the consultant employed a combination of

complimentary data gathering approaches so as to draw valid information from objective

sources. The approaches included the following:

* Meetings with CARE management team in Erigavo to discuss the Terms of Reference, project background and the Consultants’ proposal and work plan of evaluation. It was agreed with Management Office in Erigavo that the consultant will use two approaches : Structured questionnaire for quantitative data collection and focus group discussion for qualitative information and validation of some of the issues that might arise from quantitative data collection
* SSELP project documents review which included project proposals, mid term and end of project reports, VSLA manual, baseline survey, financial report and previous evaluation report of the TSR. This review was used to acquire a general understanding of the project, to gather secondary data about the project and guide the design of the evaluation approach.
* The Consultant used a set of evaluation questions and judgment criteria in the themes of cash distribution dynamics, VSLA, cash expenditure pattern, emergency support profile, social, economical and environmental impacts. Additional tools such as focus group discussions, observations and interviews with programme management, staff and beneficiaries were used. SPSS was used to analyse the structured questionnaire response while the judgment criteria was used to analyse other information and data collected
* Eleven days field mission to programme implementation sites in Somalia. During the visits to the project implementation sites in Erigavo, El-Afweyn and Ainabo, the Consultant had the opportunity to meet and discuss with project management team, interview staff and beneficiaries (cash for work, Unconditional Cash transfers, VSLA members) and check monitoring tools and verify information/data at project implementation level. The field mission was used to measure project achievements towards project purpose and its contribution to the project goal, level of satisfaction among the beneficiaries and lessons learnt.
* SSELP management team members in Erigavo was consulted before departure and briefed about the preliminary findings of the field mission.
* Observation was used to obtain information on salient issues such as completion of the structures, structural integrity of structures and its relevance and need to situation such as observable environmental changes
* Data analysis and synthesis of final findings and draft reporting was done in Nairobi;
* Final Reporting.

## Sampling and Sample Size

The study used purposive sampling design. Three out of the four districts: Erigavo, ElAfweyn and Ainabo were sampled. Bo’ame could not be included in the evaluation sample because of insecurity in the area. Four villages each from Erigavo and Elafweyn and two villages from Ainabo were sampled out of the 46 villages which benefited from the SSELP project. It was decided 10% of the total beneficiaries of the project should be sampled from the selected 10 villages. To ensure the sampling, though purposive, is reflective of the whole project coverage, attempts were made to select 10 villages that have implemented collectively all type of activity structures. 246 household representatives were finally interviewed using a structured questionnaire. Focus group discussion with village committees and beneficiaries elicited information on perception of the community on the project achievement.

Stakeholder Participation in evaluation

Table 1:

Table 1‑‑vilages visited

|  | **Village** | **District** | **Region** | **Activities** | **Comment** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 1 | Buq | Erigavo | Sannag | Latrines and dumping site | Questionnaire  And FGD |
| 2 | Dayaha | Erigavo | Sannag | Gully Control and irrigation canal rehabilitation | Questionnaire  And FGD |
| 3 | Midisho | Erigavo | Sannag | Gully Control | Questionnaire  And FGD |
| **4** | Marwad | Erigavo | Sannag | Check dam | Questionnaire  And FGD |
| **5** | Dhabarmamc | El-Afweyn | Sanaag | Latrines and dumping sites | Questionnaire |
| **6** | Kalsheikh | El -Afweyn | Sanaag | Check dam and dumping sites | Questionnaire |
| **7** | Garuble | El-Afweyn | Sanaag | Irrigation channel | Questionnaire |
| **8** | Gal iyo Qac | El-afweyn | Sanaag | Gully control | Questionnaire |
| **9** | Higlo | Ainabo | Sool | Gully control and dumping sites | Questionnaire |
| **10** | Ulasan | Ainabo | Sool | Gully control and dumping site | Questionnaire |
| **11** | Gadhgurmeed | Ainabo | Sool | Gully control and dumping site | Focus group discussion |

# Findings

## Introduction

This section present the main factual elements collected through the review of project documents, analysis of data from questionnaire, meetings, discussions, interviews and data from project management, stakeholders, beneficiaries in the three Districts of Erigavo, ElAfweyn and Ainabo of Sool and Sanaag regions. It focuses on the achievement of the outcome as well as how the purpose *‘Contribute to mitigate against further deterioration of food and livelihood security of populations affected by drought in the Sool and Sanaag region’.*

## 3.2 Relevance

**Food security**

The SSELP design is a modified extension of the emergency component of ongoing Towards Self Reliance (TSR) project implemented by CARE in Sool and Sanaag. The TSR project has also a recovery component.

During the identification and formulation of the SSELP the food security situation in Sool and Sanaag was deteriorating. According to FSNAU, failure of *Dayr* 2010 followed by Harsh *Jillaal* 2011has caused depletion of pasture and browse, drying up of water sources leading to early water tracking and livestock conditions going from poor to very poor. Despite Good *Gu* (2011) rain in the region, the following *Dayr* (2011) rain was also below normal by 40%. The combination of the above several seasons rain failure have reduced livestock assets and increased indebtedness of the pastoral communities in Sool and Sannag (1). This had a tremendous negative impact on the livelihood security of the most vulnerable members of the community

An assessment by CARE Somalia in August 2011 on the Somaliland Drought situation that was to ascertain impact and extent of drought on the humanitarian situation and make recommendation on appropriate emergency intervention found out that the drought had a negative impact on the livelihood especially on food security and access to water and sanitation (2). The CARE drought report recommended intervention such as cash assistance to allow flexible use of cash received to meet food and non food needs such as water and payment of accumulated debts.

The post emergency intervention period of February 2012, FSNAU had indicated the region has improved from emergency to crisis due to mainly humanitarian intervention.

The SSELP project injected cash to 2,300 household through cash relief and cash for work. This cash injection has helped improve food security situation in project area. Cash received was spent mainly on buying food, debt repayment and savings in VSLA which opened opportunity for borrowing during time of stress and thus strengthened the food security aspect of the project intervention. In addition, through the cash for work approach, the project intervention has helped in the construction and rehabilitation of structures which have long term impact on the livelihood security of the communities supported. These structures include construction and rehabilitation of check dams, sand dams and irrigation canals.

This evaluation both from questionnaire response and FGD has found out that the cash received was mainly used to buy food, water, debt repayment and health in that order of importance while cash borrowed from VSLA was mainly used to buy food, debt repayment, health care service and investment in that order of importance.

*1FSNAU Food Security and Nutrition Quarterly Brief - Outcome of Jilaal Dry Season, April 2011;*

*FSNAU Food Security and Nutrition Brief - Post Deyr 2011/12 Analysis, February 2012*;

*FSNAU Food Security and Nutrition Brief - April, 2012.*

2 CARE Somalia. 2011. Rural Women Impact Group Baseline Survey

**Measures taken to ensure project achievements are not lost**

The rationale for cash transfer rather than food aid distribution was an effective measure that ensured project achievements were not lost. The cash transfer was linked to construction of structures that provide food security, water, and sanitation and ensured environmental sustainability of the project. VSLA is another measure taken at the project formulation level to ensure project achievements are not lost. VSLA in the project design are structured in a way that they function independently once trainings are done during formation. 39% of the sampled respondents saved about 20% of the cash they received. 46% of respondents who participated and saved with VSLA have indicated that they borrowed cash from VSLA and the cash borrowed was used to buy food, debt repayment, health, investment and animal health in that order of importance.

**Selection criteria for areas, structures, cash for work participants**

The selection of 46 villages in Sool and Sanaag was based on CARE’s long work experience in the region. Especially the area is marginal in both Puntland and Somaliland, is very arid, and prone to insecurity. Cash for work infrastructure selection was done and prioritised by the communities in each of the target villages through participatory rural appraisal exercise. Focus group discussion showed that infrastructure such as latrines, irrigation canals and gully control structures has very positive impacts on the sanitation and livelihood securities of beneficiary communities.

Cash for work participant were selected on the basis of vulnerable household with people who have productive capacity. The analysis of data collected from sampled beneficiary show that of those who know the criteria used to select beneficiaries indicated that selection was mainly based on the following

1. Household with less than 10 livestock where 15% of owned shoats have died due to disease or drought in the last 12 months - 87%
2. Households where head or spouse major activity is selling firewood/charcoal - 80%
3. Households where head is unemployed with priority of households with more than three adolescent girls -72%
4. Child headed households/households with 2 or more orphans – 55%

The risk of intra-household conflict was a looming factor in the design of the cash for work beneficiaries as the cash is collected by the female household member but the work is mainly carried out by able bodied men who can carry out work. This risk of conflict at the household level is however seen to be reduced by CARE’s approach of training village committees in governance, gender and conflict. The project engaged in empowering women and reducing conflict with consent from community elders and village committees.

From the evaluation it is found that targeting criteria and selection of beneficiary is seen to be fair by over 97% of respondents. The view of the respondents sampled is that the selection criteria itself was decided by CARE in consultation with village committees and community elders

Figure fairness of targeting Figure : fairness of selection process

**Village Saving and Loan Association**

VSLA is a group of 15-25 members who save together and borrow small amount of loan from savings. VSLA was integrated into the project design to develop saving culture among project beneficiaries. The impact of the VSLA is that it can be a good strategy for income generation and poverty reduction through saving small amount and borrowing to invest or meet emergency need. Borrowing is some times done to avoid distress selling of assets such as livestock selling during drought when their market value is low. FGD with members in one of the villages visited have narrated situation where borrowing from VSLA has saved them from distress selling of livestock with low market value to meet pressing need.

Whether the VSLA is sustainable depends on the income possibility of the beneficiaries. FGD with project beneficiaries indicate that VSLA is sustainable venture as members have institutional and financial independence in managing the association.

Response to questionnaire indicates that 62% of respondents belong to VSLA group while 49% of this group has borrowed money from VSLA.

Figure : VSLA members Figure VSLA borrowers

## Efficiency

**Adequacy of project budget**,

The project budget seems to be adequate for the planned activities. However during FGD with committees and beneficiaries in the sampled villages the need for extended intervention in structures such as latrines and gully control is overwhelming. FGD in some of the villages sampled, the beneficiaries still need additional latrines and some of the gully control structures visited were incomplete and require extension to be effective. Most of the cash for work beneficiaries feel the wage of USD 70 is not enough compensation of 30 days labour although the beneficiary are not skilled.

Almost two third of project expenditure was used as direct cash injection to beneficiaries and provision of labour to construct 227 structures across 46 in four districts of of Sool and Sanag region. The structures provided necessary water, sanitation services and environmentally sustainable development.

Overall the project budget achieved its intended objective of carrying out planned activities and delivering the results planned.

**Project Implementation**

The project was implemented by a team of technical staff composed of a manager, two senior program officers, four program officers, an engineer and support staff of administration and finance. The project comes under the rural vulnerable women’s program. The project manger reports to head of the program in Hargeisa, Somalia.

Below is an organogram of the rural women programme

Figure organogram of rural women program

**Relation management with elders, community leaders, other development partners**

The project management has invested time and resources in building good relations with elders, community leaders and other partners such as the local authorities. From the start of the project, management team worked with local population to build and enhance the capacity of the communities to identify, prioritise and address their needs through participatory process. Communities were informed about project objectives and strategies at the start of the project which made them fully aware about implementation process and requirement. This approach managed the expectation of communities and reduced risk of conflict over resources.

Village committees and elders took a very good contributory role in the project management. The committees carried out community mobilisation and meetings with CARE. Latter, village committees in the presence of local authorities, were handed over community infrastructure in order to manage on behalf of the community

**Capacity building**

The project intervention enabled the formation of 13 new VSLA and strengthened the capacity of 15 existing VSLA groups. The project has trained all VSLA groups. During the project period 13 new groups were formed and trained and 15 existing VSLA groups were capacitated. The response from sampled respondents indicates that 91% of those who participate in VSLA have received trainings while 98% are aware that their association have a constitution

Figure : trainings Figure : VSLA constitution

The VSLA trainings covered the following VSLA concept topics

1. Members, Leadership and Elections
2. Development of policies and rules for Social Fund, Share-purchase/Savings and Loan
3. Development of an Association Constitution
4. First Share-purchase/Savings Meeting
5. First Loan Disbursement
6. First Loan Repayment
7. Share-out/action-audit and graduation (including new elections)

**Appropriateness of technical design and quality of works undertaken**

From observation and discussion made by the consultant with project engineer most of the structures were appropriate and adequate in terms of design and quality. One village visited by the consultant had a well designed check dam and gully control structure which had a feasible positive impact on the environment. Regeneration of vegetation was evident at the site where the gully control/check dam was done.

On the other hand, a garbage dumping site in one of the villages visited was found to be inadequate as it was shallow and had no embankment. Additional work gully erosion control in one village did not show design work but looked more of preventative measures to stop further erosion.

## Effectiveness

**Beneficiary perception of project deliverables**

Questionnaires collected information on the timing of project activities, the timing for cash for work, cash transfers and the performance of the village committees. FGDs with various groups, including VSLA members, village committee representatives and cash relief beneficiaries looked at challenges, problems and activities that had the greatest impact on the lives of project beneficiaries and their communities.

Over 95% of respondents sampled who benefited from cash for work or unconditional cash transfer had a positive view about the timing of the cash payment. Overwhelming majority of respondents indicated that they were paid within 30 days after mobilisation at village level by CARE staff. Over 90% of respondents have good or excellent perception bout the performance of village committees in managing the affairs of the community. Over 60% of the respondent perceives the sanitation condition is better while 75% of this respondent group attribute this change to project intervention.

Participants in FGD have reinforced these views and in addition were highly appreciative of structures such as latrines, check dams, and rehabilitated irrigation canals that had a positive impact on their livelihood security and sanitation.

Figure : appropriateness of project timing

**Appropriateness of the indicators (OVI’s)**

Table ‑: appropriateness of indicators

| **Intervention Logic** | **Target OVI** | **Appropriateness** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Principle objective**  Contribute to mitigate against further deterioration of food and livelihood security of populations affected by drought in the Sool and Sanaag region of Somaliland. |  | No impact indicators  Impact indicators are beyond the project measurement |
| **Specific objective**  To meet the immediate minimum food, water and sanitation needs of 38,160 emergency affected and vulnerable people in the Sool and Sanaag region of Somaliland by May 2012. | 1. Beneficiaries access 2 meals per day | Outcome indicators describe objective in operationally measurable terms. It measures food security at household level  This indicator is appropriate and is linked to result indicator. It is SMART indicator. |
| 1. Beneficiaries access at least 7.5 litre of water per capita per day | This indicator is appropriate and is linked to result indicator It is SMART indicator |
| **Result 1**  1. Improved access to food for 13,800 emergency affected and vulnerable people through increased household income. | 1. 100% increase in the number of meals per household per day | Output indicator  Appropriate and relevant to the expected result. Can be monitored and evaluated. SMART.  This indicator assumes all beneficiaries are having one meal per day. This is not the case as shown by evaluation data |
| 1. Reduced indebtedness among 30% of beneficiaries with debts | b) Appropriate and relevant to the expected result. Can easily be monitored and evaluated. SMART |
| **Result 2**  2. Improved access to water, sanitation for 38,160 emergency affected and vulnerable people through increased purchasing power, water and sanitation coverage. | 1. 50% increase in access to water per capita per day | This indicator requires more clarification on whether it is on the whole beneficiary population or is limited to those who received cash  Generally appropriate and relevant to the expected result. Can be monitored and evaluated. Not fully SMART indicator |
| b) 50% increase in sanitation coverage among beneficiary population | Appropriate and relevant to the expected result. Can be monitored and evaluated.  It is SMART indicator |

**Monitoring**

Monitoring is a systematic and continuous collection, analysis and use of management information to support effective decision making. It involves monitoring of expenditure against budget, resource use in project activities, delivery of results and management of risk. Overall the project has a good monitoring plan. Quality of monitoring data is good as it captures:

1. Daily living expenses, number of households per day before project start and after project start;
2. Number of households in each village benefiting from project;
3. Reduction in household debt and ability to borrow again;
4. Number of target beneficiaries who have invested in productive assets after benefiting from program;
5. Segregation of beneficiary by gender and
6. Number of infrastructure realized and managed by village committees.

To report on progress against planned activities and results there is a regular monitoring report and quarterly progress report produced by programme officers and project manager respectively.

## Impact

**Result 1**

Improved access to food for 13,800 emergency affected and vulnerable people through increased household income

1. 100% increase in the number of meals per household per day

The project has injected cash during drought period through relief and cash for work in order for vulnerable households to access food and other essential needs. According to project data 1402 vulnerable household with productive labour and 898 households with no members who can provide productive labour were selected through inclusive and consultative community identified selection process. Both groups were given USD 70 cash for three months. Below is breakdown of cash delivery to beneficiary.

Table ‑: Cash distribution

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **District** | **Conditional** | **Unconditional** | **Total Benef.** |
| Erigavo | 335 | 220 | 555 |
| El-Afwayn | 510 | 342 | 852 |
| Ainabo | 354 | 243 | 597 |
| Bocame | 201 | 95 | 296 |
| **Total** | **1402** | **898** | **2,300** |

Information from questionnaire show 38% of respondent have indicated they have had change in meals increased by 100% to 200% meaning they increased there meals from one to two meals or from one to three meals during project intervention. About 54% had 50% increases in meals meaning that they increased their meals from two meals to three meals during project intervention.

This indicator assumed that 100% increase in meals should mean an increase from one meal to two meals which is not the case. However, the overall assessment finds that 100% of beneficiaries had at least 2 meals per day

Table ‑: changes in meals per day

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **No.** | **Change in meals** | **% change in meals/day** | **Number of Respondents** | **Percentage** |
| 1 | Increased from one to two meals per day | 100% | 51 | 21% |
| 2 | Increased from one to three meals per day | 200% | 41 | 17% |
| 3 | Increased from two to three meals per day | 50% | 130 | 54% |
| 4 | Increased from three to four meals per day | 33% | 4 | 2% |
| 5 | No change, still three meals per day | 0% | 16 | 7% |
|  | Total |  | 242 | 100% |

Project also enabled the establishment of 13 new VSLA in Bo’ame district of Sool and strengthened 15 existing VSLA in the other three districts. VSLA has helped members save money once they receive cash and borrow during time of need to meet food and other essential needs during time of stress

Pattern of cash expenditure from project intervention and borrowing from VSLA show that expenditure was overwhelmingly on food.

Figure : cash expenditure

1. Reduced indebtedness among 30% of beneficiaries with debts

According to analyzed data from questionnaire about 27% of beneficiaries sampled used cash received from project intervention to pay their debt. Another 44% of those who participate in VSLA and borrowed money from the pot used some of the cash to pay debt. On average the indicator on reduction of indebtedness by 30% beneficiaries have been achieved.

Figure : borrowing expenditure

**Result 2**

Improved access to water, sanitation for 38,160 emergency affected and vulnerable people through increased purchasing power, water and sanitation coverage

1. 50% increase in access to water per capita per day-

The planned approach of the project to increase water access per capita per day is from 5 litres to 7.5 litres making it 50% increase in access to water per capita. The assumption is that every household (6 person) will require to increase its water access from 30 litres to 45 litres per household per day. Towards this end, evaluation figures from respondents show that only 33.8% of the population had increased their access to water per capita per day by 50%. The under achievement of this indicator, according to project management, is attributed to failure of rain as accessibility to water is determined by availability of the commodity. The drying up of shallow wells and *Berkads* has affected this indicator.

However, if we consider general increase in access to water per capita per day regardless of minimum water access of a household being 30 litres per household per day, over 100% of respondents have indicated 50% and above increase in access to water per capita per day. This means households have increased their access to water from as little as 20 litres per day to 30 liters or even to upto 80 litres. This overall percentage increase in water access could be attributed to project intervention. Beneficiaries, especially those that have received cash, have used some of the cash received to purchase water. Analysis show that water was the second most important commodity purchased with cash received, after food purchase.

Table ‑: Change in water use per day

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **No.** | **Change in water (Litres)** | **% change** | **Number of Respondents** | **Percentage** |
| 1 | Increased from 20 to 30 litres per day | 50% | 69 | 33.8% |
| 2 | Increased from 20 to 40 litres per day | 100% | 11 | 5.4% |
| 3 | Increased from 20 to 60 litres per day | 200% | 8 | 3.9% |
| 4 | Increased from 20 to 80 litres per day | 300% | 4 | 2.0% |
| 5 | Increased from 30 to 40 litres per day | 33% | 22 | 10.8% |
| 6 | Increased from 30 to 60 litres per day | 100% | 13 | 6.4% |
| 7 | Increased from 40 to 60 litres per day | 50% | 28 | 13.7% |
| 8 | Increased from 40 to 80 litres per day | 100% | 7 | 3.4% |
| 9 | Increased from 50 to 60 litres per day | 20% | 9 | 4.4% |
| 10 | No change, still the same amount of water per day. | 0% | 33 | 16.2% |
|  | Total |  | 204 | 100% |

1. 50% increase in sanitation coverage among beneficiary population

The main measure used in sanitation coverage could be construction of latrines, garbage dumps, trainings in hygiene and improving access to clean drinking water. To this end the project’s planned figures of 110 latrines and 48 construction garbage pits has been overachieved. The project managed to construct 126 latrines and 53 garbage pits. 100% of planned rehabilitation of 5 shallow well has also been achieved. Training in hygiene was also conducted in the 46 villages.

Comparing sanitation condition before and after project intervention, 60% of sampled respondents have indicated the sanitation condition is better. About 75% of those who said the sanitation condition is better have attributed the positive change to project intervention. FGD with visited village committees and beneficiaries confirmed to the consultant this positive contribution is mainly due to construction of latrines and training in hygiene and to a lesser extent construction of garbage dumps and probably rehabilitation of shallow wells.

Figure : sanitation status

**Specific objective**

To meet the immediate minimum food, water and sanitation needs of 38,160 emergency affected and vulnerable people in the Sool and Sanaag region of Somaliland by May 2012.

1. Beneficiaries access 2 meals per day - This objective has been achieved. The overall assessment is that 100% of beneficiaries had at least 2 meals per day
2. Beneficiaries access at least 7.5 litre of water per capita per day. 33.8% of beneficiaries assessed have indicated access to at least 7.5 litres per capita per day. However the evaluation figures show that 100% have increased their access to water by at least 50% marginally.

The under achievement of this indicator, according to project management, is attributed to failure of rain as accessibility to water is determined by availability of the commodity. The drying up of shallow wells and *Berkads* has affected this indicator.

Through cash for work 227 structures were constructed or rehabilitated this included latrines, shallow wells, check dams/gully controls, water ponds, irrigation canals, roads, garbage pits and sand dams. These structures have helped in achieving the specific objective of the project.

* 1. Summary of programme achievement

Table ‑: summary of program acheivement

| **Intervention Logic** | **Required action** | **Target OVI** | **Achieved OVI** | **Comment** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Principle objective**  Contribute to mitigate against further deterioration of food and livelihood security of populations affected by drought in the Sool and Sanaag region of Somaliland. | - | - | - | Indicates contribution to impact |
| **Specific objective**  To meet the immediate minimum food, water and sanitation needs of 38,160 emergency affected and vulnerable people in the Sool and Sanaag region of Somaliland by May 2012. | Employment and remuneration of 1,380 beneficiaries for construction work  Cash relief for 920 households | 1. Beneficiaries access 2 meals per day | 100% of beneficiaries accessed at least 2 meals per day | Contributes to programme Impact  Target achieved |
| 1. Beneficiaries access at least 7.5 litre of water per capita per day | 33.8% of sampled respondents indicated access of at least 7.5 litre of water per capita per day. | Target underachieved. The under achievement of this indicator, according to project management, is attributed to failure of rain as accessibility to water is determined by availability of the commodity. The drying up of shallow wells and *Berkads* has affected this indicator. |
| **Result 1**  1. Improved access to food for 13,800 emergency affected and vulnerable people through increased household income. | Conditional and unconditional cash transfers and construction and rehabilitation of community structures  VSLA formation and strengthening | 1. 100% increase in the number of meals per household per day | Cash was delivered and received by 2300 households  13 VSLA formed and 15 strengthened through training | Contributes to programme effectiveness  Target achieved |
| 1. Reduced indebtedness among 30% of beneficiaries with debts | Over 30% of beneficiaries reduced their debt | Target over achieved |
| **Result 2**  2. Improved access to water, sanitation for 38,160 emergency affected and vulnerable people through increased purchasing power, water and sanitation coverage. | Construction and rehabilitation of water and sanitation infrastructure | 50% increase in access to water per capita per day | Generally 100% of beneficiaries increased access to water by over 50% | Contributes to programme effectiveness  Target achieved  Indicator is not clear whether 50% increase of access to water has to be equal to 7.5 litres/capita/per day |
| 50% increase in sanitation coverage among beneficiary population | 60% of respondents have indicated improved sanitation condition.  Structures to improve sanitation include over 126 latrines, 53 garbage dumps, 5 rehabilitated shallow well as well as hygiene training | Target  Overachieved. |
|  | 1. Cash transfer to 920 households 2. Employment and remuneration of 1,380 beneficiaries for construction work    1. Construction of 2 sand dams    2. Construction of 3 water ponds    3. Rehabilitation of 5 shallow wells    4. Rehabilitation of 2 irrigation channels    5. Construction of 110 household latrines    6. Construction of 48 garbage dumps    7. Construction of 7 gully    8. Construction of 3 check dams    9. Rehabilitation of 2 key access roads 3. Hygiene promotion in 46 villages 4. Gender, conflict & governance training 5. VSLA formation and training 6. Other costs | | * + 1. Unconditional cash transfer to 898 households     2. Employment and remuneration of 1,402  1. Construction of **2** sand dams completed 2. Construction of **3** water ponds completed 3. Rehabilitation of **5** shallow wells completed 4. Construction of **4** irrigation channels 5. Construction of **126** household latrines 6. Construction of **53** garbage dumps 7. Construction of **16** gullies 8. Construction of **15** check dams 9. Rehabilitation of **3** key access roads    * 1. Improved Hygiene and sanitation of 46 villages through trainings and mobilizations      2. 3 trainings of Gender, conflict & governance conducted      3. 13 new VSLA groups formed and strengthened the capacity of 15 existing VSLA groups      4. Infrastructure Maintenance Training conducted for all the 46 villages | |

**Impact of the projects on the purchasing power of beneficiary households and, as a result, their poverty reduction**

From the baseline survey carried out in 2010 poverty was manifested as livelihood insecurity such as eating irregularly and income insecurity among other issues including lack of shelter and lack of kinship. The project has injected cash to the local economy of the 46 villages. This has tremendously improved the purchasing power of the beneficiaries. Money received was spent mainly on food and other essential needs such as water for household use, debt repayment, saving in VSLA and health in that order of importance.

Some of those who saved in VSLA had the opportunity to borrow during time of emergency and this enabled them to have power to purchase goods and service. VSLA borrowing was mainly used to purchase food, debt repayment, health care service and investment in that order of importance.

The project has therefore reduced poverty since the income of beneficiaries has increased thus increasing their ability to spend on food and other essential household needs. The period of intervention was however only three months.

**The project approach to gender and its impact on gender equity and related issues**

The SSELP project which comes under Rural Women’s Program focuses on rural population with particular attention to vulnerable women. According to project report 69% of beneficiaries are women. This is collaborated by the purposively sampled questionnaire data analysis which shows that 65% of project beneficiaries are women. The 4% difference could be considered to be within range of marginal error. Selection criteria used also included selection of divorced women, and household where household head is unemployed and had three adolescent girls. Village committees had at least 30% slot for female membership while actual current committee female membership is 32%. The project also provided for training in gender, conflict and governance which aimed at empowering women.

Decision making in cash expenditure at the household level also indicated that decision were mainly made together by both husband and wife or by wife alone.

Figure : Gender distribution Figure : gender decision making

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However observation made during FGD is that still men are more informed than women about the SSELP intervention. Women are generally more conservative in the visited villages.

Overall the project had positive impact on gender equity as women who are mainly responsible for production at household level were empowered in terms of income. These has increased their decision making and purchasing power which contributes to poverty reduction.

### Possible intended or unintended impact on environment

The project intervention has had positive impact on the environment. Check dams have made regeneration of vegetation in degraded land possible through control of water erosion and gully formation. The construction of check dams at visited sites is already having a positive impact on the regeneration of grazing lands

45% of respondents noted an improvement in ground cover in areas protected by check dams. This has met a clear and urgent need in villages where grazing land and arable land are being eaten away by gullies; slowing and halting the spread of gullies will have a positive long term impact on food security in these areas.

Figure : Effect of project on vegetation

The deliberate selection of households practicing charcoal production as project beneficiaries also had a positive environmental impact as it discouraged charcoal production as a source of livelihood income. This approach saves burning of vegetation for charcoal.

Improved sanitation through construction of latrines has contributed to a healthy and save environment. Defecation in water ways and depressions have reduced due to construction and use of latrines

## Sustainability

From the start of the project inception the project management team has put a lot of time in consultation with stakeholders that ensured beneficiaries participate in project activities identification and implementation in order to enhance ownership of objectives and achievement. Government line ministries, regional and local authorities were involved in identification of areas most affected by drought. Within selected villages participatory rural appraisal exercise was conducted to allow communities to identify and prioritise activities to be implemented*.* The PRA carried out at the start of the project has increased community ownership of the project results and achievement especially with regard to identification and prioritisation of needs, implementation of activities and infrastructure management after completion of project activities.

In terms of institutional capacity of project stakeholders, village committees have played a significant role in facilitating the smooth running of the project. The committees were critical in the selection process of beneficiaries and implementation of activities. In turn the project team worked with these committees and empowered them through training and coaching to lead and participate in project implementation

Project reports show that the village committees brainstormed and identified needs and then prioritized their community needs, helped organize beneficiaries, assisted in the implementation of project activities, monitored ongoing activities such as construction of community structures and VSLA, kept record of attendance of cash for work beneficiaries as well as organized meetings/community gathering with the staff. The committees were oriented with project objectives and strategies at the start of the project which made them fully aware of the implementation processes and requirements. The committees were also able to carry out the community mobilization activities and meetings with CARE staff. Overall 46 village committees were established and are currently active, one in each village with members ranging from 7 members to 11 members of whom 32% are female.

Community members were trained on how to manage infrastructures developed by the project. Such trainings among others include management and maintenance of structures which aimed at building the capacity of the community so that they are able to handle the management and maintenance of project infrastructures. Many of the village committees have already implemented good initiatives which include extension of check dams and maintenance of structures. The project also enhanced the leadership and managerial skills of the village committees through trainings, coaching, mobilizations and meetings with particular emphasize on attitudinal change. This resulted in action oriented grass root institutions

The project had a capacity building component which involved training of community members and village committees. The training to build the capacity of project beneficiaries include infrastructure maintenance training which prepared village committees for handover of project and its maintenance after project completion. VSLA trainings targeted members of VSLA in making an association and how to govern and manage VSLA association. Gender, conflict and governance training targeted village committees and elders to change attitude, make them gain skills in leadership

Structures such as irrigation canals, check dams and sand dams have a long term economic and financial sustainable effect to beneficiaries. Agro-pastoralist and pastoral communities will have access to water for irrigation and livestock after end of project. This will enhance the livelihood security of beneficiaries and reduce poverty. Equally successful VSLA will play a significant role in making the project to economically and financially be sustainable after its completion as it could be a foundation for micro finance service in the region.

# Conclusions and recommendations

## Conclusion

The project has significantly achieved its objectives*.* Significant progress has been made towards achievement of the results and project purpose. The project impact has contributed to the principle objective of ‘contribute to mitigate against further deterioration of food and livelihood security of populations affected by drought in th Sool and Sanaag region of Somaliland’.

Cash was delivered and received by 2300 households for three months at USD 70 per month while 13 VSLA was formed and another 15 were strengthened through capacity building. Analysed information from sampled respondents show that over 30% of beneficiaries had reduced their debt from cash received or loans borrowed from VSLA. Marginally 100% of beneficiaries have increased access to water by over 50% while over 60% of respondents have indicated improved sanitation condition. However, the duration of intervention was seen to be short and amount of cash intervention was generally seen to be small at USD 70 per month

The project impact, especially on construction of infrastructure and VSLA, is also sustainable as it has ownership and institutional capacity linked to beneficiary community through its village committees. The project achievement has long term benefit for example development of strong VSLA can have a long term positive impact on micro finance institution development in the region.

## Recommendation

* In future cash intervention during emergency period should be at least 6 months period while cash amount should be at least USD 100 per month to have a better positive impact on livelihood security.
* There is a need for a follow-up project in some of the visited villages such as completion of check dam to control water flow and Latrines construction.

## Lessons learnt

1. Injection of cash into the village economy has improved income and food security and by extension reduced poverty
2. The participatory process approach has enabled Bo’ame district to identify and prioritise unique need of construction of school classes rather than other structures such as latrines as a project activity
3. Beneficiary payment for labour was linked to delivery of project activities instead of daily wage and were then paid at the end of the month after completion of assigned activities
4. The link of cash for work and unconditional cash transfer to VSLA was complementary. Beneficiaries saved some of the cash in VSLA
5. The project did not rush to create quick outputs but engaged in a slow, patient process of group formation and sensitization to gain trust and encourage participation at the community level.
6. The PRA exercise carried out at the start of the project has increased community ownership. Village committees and other members of the community have been actively engaged in the implementation of project activities. Such involvement also increased the capacity of the local people in terms of implementation of basic activities.

# Annexes

CARE INTERNATIONAL

SOOL AND SANAAG EMERGENCY LIVELIHOOD PROJECT (SSELP)

*FINAL EVALUATION ToR*

1. **Introduction**

CARE Somalia is implementing a livelihood security project in four districts: Erigavo, El-Afweyn, Ainabo and Bo’ame of Sanaag and Sool regions of Northern Somalia. The objective of the project is to contribute to mitigate against further deterioration of food and livelihood security of populations affected by drought in the Sool and Sanaag region of Somalia.

Sool and Sanaag Emergency Livelihood Project aims to meet the immediate minimum food, water and sanitation needs of 38,160 emergency affected and vulnerable people in the Sool and Sanaag region by May 2012.

The specific focus is on strengthening livelihoods at the level of households, with a particular focus on the protection / expansion of assets facilitated through the promotion of a savings and loaning culture.

This is the first and final evaluation of the project. No previous evaluation has

been carried out specifically for this project. The broad objective of the evaluation is to check the pertinence, efficacy and efficiency of the SSELP project. The evaluation shall be a ‘formative’ one whereby full participation of the project staff and stakeholders is emphasised. CARE shall hire an external consultant for 25 days to carry out the final evaluation.

1. **Objectives of the evaluation**

The project’s final evaluation is a part of the agreement with CORDAID.

The main objective of this final evaluation is to provide the donor, CARE and project stakeholders with an independent assessment of the achievements made by the project towards the purpose stated in the

Logical Framework Analysis (LFA), how this has contributed to the overall project goal of to Contribute to mitigate against further deterioration of food and livelihood security of populations affected by drought in the Sool and Sanaag region. The specific objectives of the final evaluation also include:

* Assess that funds have been used effectively and efficiently to deliver results;
* Improve future programme design and management;
* Record and share lessons to influence relevant policies;
* Account to local stakeholders for the programme’s achievements;
* Enable CARE to evaluate the performance of the project as a whole.

The evaluation is primarily targeted for the project staff and the donors. At the end of the evaluation, the external consultant shall produce report and present it to CARE and the Donor.

1. **Background**

**Project objective(s)**

To meet the immediate minimum food, water and sanitation needs of 38,160 emergency affected and vulnerable people in the Sool and Sanaag region of.

**Aimed-for results**

1. **Result 1:** Improved access to food for 13,800 emergency affected and vulnerable people through increased household income.

Household income will be increased through unconditional cash transfers to 920 target households at the rate of $70 per month for 3 months to enable them relief from indebtedness, low purchasing power and high food and commodity prices.

Similarly, household income will be increased through cash for work for 1380 target households with able bodied members at $70 per month for 3 months.

All together 13,800 people in these households will benefit from increased access to food as well as essential household items and basic services.

Indirectly, members of 20 VSLAs (200 HH – 1,600 people) will benefit from increased access to financial services from 10 newly established and 10 old strengthened institutions.

1. **Result 2:** Improved access to water, sanitation for 38,160 emergency affected and vulnerable people through increased purchasing power and sanitation coverage.

Under this result, cash transfer beneficiaries will also be able to purchase water for their domestic and livestock use. Additional 23,400 people (2,930 HH) will have improved access to water from water facilities constructed through cash for work. These are 2 sand dams (586 HH), 3 water ponds (879 HH) and 5 shallow wells (1,465 HH). Together with the beneficiaries of cash, this brings the total number of people to benefit directly from increased access to water to 38,160.

All the people in the target 46 villages (13,478 households – 107,824 people) will benefit indirectly from increased awareness of hygienic practices. It is not envisaged that hygiene behavior change will be achieved by the end of the project. However, other longer term CARE projects within the same communities will continue reinforce hygiene knowledge to foster behavior change. Additionally, 440 HH (3,520 people) will benefit from increased access to improved sanitation through use of 110 latrines to be built through cash for work. 2,051 HH (16,408 people) will benefit from improved environmental sanitation resulting from proper garbage disposal in 48 garbage dumps to be constructed in their villages.

# d) Scope of Evaluation

The final evaluation should cover implementation period from October 2011 to May 2012. The geographical scope of the evaluation is Erigavo, El-Afwayn, Ainabo and Bo’ame districts of Sanaag and Sool regions respectively. While the main emphasis should be on measuring outcomes, the evaluation should also cover the project concept and design, implementation, results and outputs. The evaluation should include findings, lessons learned and recommendations.

As mentioned earlier that the **evaluation is a formative one aimed at improving** the current project performance, therefore, the main issues that the evaluation should address include:

1. **An assessment of a number of critical elements in the project approach and methodology**
2. To assess in detail the relevance of the relief component against the current food security context of the project area. In order to do so the consultant will analyze the food security situation, bringing together existing sources of information and where necessary verify this through fieldwork.
3. Assess the effectiveness of measures taken to ensure project achievements are not lost and provide suggestions for improving the sustainability of the project.
4. Review the effectiveness and relevance of the selection criteria for areas, structures and cash for work participants. With a specific focus on the latter: the selection of vulnerable households for CfW.
5. To assess the impact and sustainability of the Village Saving and Loan Association (VSLA) model and the linkage of the project relief component and its Village Saving and Loan Association (VSLA) component

**B. An assessment of the achievements of the project so far against Log-Frame Indicators**

Furthermore, the consultant shall assess the project achievements against the following criteria (relevance, efficiency, effectiveness, impact and sustainability):

**Relevance**

The consultant should look at the design of the project and assess the extent to which the stated project objectives address the identified problems or real needs.

**Efficiency**

* Analyse the quality of day-to-day management (adequacy of project budget, management of personnel, project properties, communication, relation management with elders, community leaders, other development partners, etc)
* Local capacity building: How far the project was able to strengthen the capacity of Village committees and Village Saving and Loan Association (VSLA) groups
* Review if the technical design and quality of works undertaken is appropriate and adequate.
* Review and assess the quality of monitoring

**Effectiveness**

* Assess whether the beneficiaries (communities) perceive that the planned benefits have been delivered and received.
* Assess the appropriateness of the indicators (OVI’s) including any changes made during the course of project implementation.
* Assess the robustness of the monitoring protocol and data collection & compilation by project staff based on the log frame indicators.

**Impact**

* Assess progress against the planned overall objectives and against the log frame indicators.
* Assess the impact of the projects on the purchasing power of beneficiary households and, as a result, their poverty reduction.
* Analyse the project approach to gender and its impact on gender equity and related issues.
* Assess the possible intended or unintended impact on environment

**Sustainability**

* Ownership of objectives and achievements: to what extent were the stakeholders consulted and involved in defining the objectives, the selection process for activities and beneficiaries, implementation, monitoring and evaluation?
* Institutional capacity: Assess the degree of commitment of stakeholders, community and village committees in cost sharing, and the measures taken to strengthen their capacity and suggest improvements for the future.
* Document lessons learned by the project so far
* Analyse the capacity building component of the project including appropriateness of training methods and suitability of messages and curriculum.
* Assess the economical and financial sustainability of the interventions.

**e) Methodological aspects**

1. Briefing by CARE in Nairobi

2. Review of reference documents

* + - Donor regulations, project financing agreements, evaluation guidelines
    - Project document
    - Baseline survey
    - Project log frame
    - Progress reports.
    - Financial reports.
    - VSLA manual
    - Any other relevant documents

3. Field Work

* + - Interact with field staff and finalize the field visit plan
    - Interact with local NGOs, other international NGOs and other stakeholders as relevant
    - Meet with local authorities
    - Conduct focus group discussions with different groups at the communities
    - Observe field activities such as latrines, roads check dams and other structures built through cash for work

Focus group discussions should include village committees, women groups, elders, and general communities benefiting from the project. There should be adequate women representation and participation during discussions.

**f) Reporting and Feedback**

The outputs of the evaluation should include a presentation in Nairobi to CARE and the and a report, which documents the main findings, lessons learned and recommendations.

The consultants will produce the following specific outputs:

* Review the suggested TOR and reference documents and develop and present an outline of the methodology, to present to CARE within first day of the evaluation. This should include their understanding of the task and include a work plan based on the proposed tentative time schedule.
* Prepare a preliminary assessment in the field outlining main findings and recommendations and debrief the same among the project staff. Compile their feedback and incorporate it in the draft evaluation report.
* Prepare a draft evaluation report and present the main findings to CARE. Incorporate comments from CARE and produce a **final report.**
* The consultant need to produce 3 hard copies of all reports produced plus 3 electronic copies in Adobe Acrobat and MS Word on CD of the final report.

**g) Expertise required**

The evaluator should be an experienced and independent consultant with the following expertise:

* Minimum of 10 years professional experience in developing countries, including previous experience working in Somalia;
* University degree in Project Management, Natural Resources Management, soil sciences or other relevant related subject;
* Excellent understanding of water structures, community saving mechanisms.
* Be conversant with Village Savings and Loans Association concept or the Group savings and loan association or similar associations.
* Demonstrated experience in community development / community targeting / Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA)
* Have a good understanding of Somalia and its history, and the resulting impact this may have on the working environment.
* Have an understanding of operating conditions in an insecure environment
* Have practical experience in assessments, planning and implementation of interventions using participatory methods such as PRA.
* Familiar with Project Cycle Management and evaluations,
* Have excellent analytical and writing skills
* Be willing to travel extensively in the working areas of the project.
* Be a team worker who can produce a report and presentation together with other consultants involved in the evaluation.
* Fluent in English (both reading and writing).
* Understanding of the Somali language is an advantage
* Be a Somali/Kenyan Somali national

**h) Work plan and Time schedule**

The total duration of the evaluation is expected to take 25 days including the fieldwork and report writing. A tentative time schedule is attached. The work plan and time schedule will be agreed upon between CARE and the consultants.

**Tentative schedule**

Note: the final schedule will be determined by flight schedules.

Day 1 Review documents and finalize work plan and schedules

Meet with relevant CARE

Day 2-3 Fly to Hargiesa meet with Program Coordinator, Area Managers, field staff, finance staff and local officials. Review and finalize field visit and interaction plan with project staff.

Day 4-11 Field visits in the three districts of Erigavo, El-Afwayn and Ainabo, interactions with community groups and project staff and field observations.

Day 12-15 Travel to Garowe to carryout data collection in Bo’ame district

Day 16-17 Field visits in the Bo’ame districts interactions with community groups and project staff and field observations.

Day 17-19 Prepare a preliminary assessment report outlining the major findings and recommendation.

Brief the project staff and local officials on the initial findings and major recommendations. Check facts and figures. Incorporate feedback from the project staff.

Day 20 Fly to Nairobi

Day 21-22 Prepare first draft report and circulate to CARE staff

Day 23 Brief CARE staff in Nairobi and obtain comments and feedback.

Day 24 Incorporate feedback and prepare the final draft

Day 25 Present the final draft to CARE.