



**Darwin Initiative/D+ Project
Half Year Report
(due 31st October 2019)**

Project reference	25-025
Project title	Improved seed, food and livelihood security for agropastoralists in Somalia
Country(ies)/territory(ies)	Somalia
Lead organisation	The Development Fund
Partner(s)	HAVOYOCO, ADO, KAALO
Project leader	Elin Cecilie Ranum
Report date and number (e.g. HYR3)	October 31, 2019 (HY2)
Project website/blog/social media etc.	https://www.facebook.com/DevelopmentFundNorway/

1. Outline progress over the last 6 months (April – Sept) against the agreed baseline timetable for the project (if your project has started less than 6 months ago, please report on the period since start up to end September).

Output 1. Seed security assessments conducted with local communities and other local agencies

Following delays that occurred in the first year, activities under this output are now well underway and on track to be completed this fiscal year. In this reporting period, a 9-day training workshop was held in June with support from USC Canada to introduce partner organizations (ADO, HAVOYOCO and KAALO) to the Seed Security Assessment methodology. Representatives from the Somaliland Ministry of Agricultural Development (MoAD) and Amoud University also participated. Partners, with support from MoAD, DF and Amoud University have since mobilized community members and collected data for Seed Security Assessment (SSA) in the three target communities. Results are now being compiled, and action plans and knowledge sharing workshops will be organized in the coming months. Throughout the process, DF has provided close follow-up and coaching to the partners.

Output 2. Initiatives supported to improve access to diverse quality seeds for women and men agropastoralists

Progress has been made in several of the activities under this output. The main achievements to date are:

- Implementing partners carried out mapping to identify farmers in the region who are good at producing multiple crops so that community seed bank can collect seed varieties from them, based on the priorities to be identified from the Seed Security Assessment. (Act 2.1).
- Terms of reference for training workshops for farmers on postharvest management were discussed and agreed upon. Partners have prepared and mobilized the community members, and the trainings will be conducted in Q3 (Act 2.3).

- The standard of procedures manual for the CSBs developed in the first year of the project was reviewed by DF's agrobiodiversity advisor; she is now supporting the partners to improve the manual (Act 2.4)
- Partner organizations have started gathering data for the development of business plans which are aimed at helping the Committees for the Community Seed Banks run the Community Seed Banks effectively (Act 2.5). DF and partner organizations agreed to outsource this exercise and are now working on the development of the terms of reference that will to be used as a guidance by the consultant to be hired.
- Partner organizations have had joint discussion on the specifications of the seed processing equipment for the CSBs and procurement is now underway (Act 2.6).

Lack of rainfall in the first half of 2019 made it impossible to conduct adaptation tests/participatory varietal selection (Act 2.2). See section 2a for more details. Other initiatives to improve seed security (Act 2.7) will be identified once the seed security assessments (Output 1) are complete.

Output 3. Support provided to reclaim and rehabilitate degraded agricultural land

In year one, 67 hectares for soil and water conservation structures were constructed to reduce water run-off in the farming fields to enhance crop production of the target communities. Unfortunately, in June, flash floods hit some areas of Puntland including project target locations, whereby over 20 hectares were washed away by the flash flood (more information can be provided upon request). In this year, the remaining 53 hectares for soil and water structures are planned to be implemented in Somaliland regions not in Puntland. Presently, community engagement and development of the minimum standards and specifications for the construction of the soil bunds were prepared, and the actual construction will start early November. The Technical Assessment on Soil and Water Conservation that was conducted by DF in year one will be updated based on the consequence of the flash flood in June.

Output 4. Support provided to raise awareness among government agencies and other local actors on farmers' rights, seed security and related policy instruments (ITPGRFA)

Implementing partners (ADO, HAVOYOCO and KAALO) have mobilized stakeholders and is now planning a training workshop on ITPGRFA in Q3 (Act 4.1). Field visits and exchanges to learn about farmers' rights and seed security (Act 4.2) have in this period been done via the seed security assessment process, where two staff from the Somaliland Ministry of Agricultural Development (MoAD) and Amoud University have participated fully in the Seed Security Assessment training workshop, data collection and analysis. A greater number of stakeholders will be engaged in the knowledge sharing workshops and actions plans.

Partner organizations have initiated a policy dialogue on seed security with the concerned government entities and relevant stakeholders, and are now planning a discussion workshop in late 2019 with the said authorities with the aim to jointly establish a proper plan for the development of national seed policies (Act 4.3-4.4).

2a. Give details of any notable problems or unexpected developments/lessons learnt that the project has encountered over the last 6 months. Explain what impact these could have on the project and whether the changes will affect the budget and timetable of project activities.

Somalia is a challenging context, with frequent climate-related disasters and a weak state that has limited resources to respond to the populations' needs. Some notable challenges that occurred during this reporting period are as follows:

Insufficient rain: Failure of the Gu rainy season (late March-May) affected the adaptation trails and seed production for the seed banks, as well as farmers. This year, rains failed during the Gu season (which is the main rainy season for Somalia). Which has particularly affected the production of maize, one of the most important crops when it comes to food security. This has also affected farmers' ability to save sufficient seed, as well as the CSBs' seed multiplication activities (limiting the volume of seed that can be made available as a backup to farming households), and the participatory varietal selection trials (Activity 2.2). This directly affects the

project's intended impact: seed, food and livelihood security of the communities. Climatic variability is one of the identified risks of the project and mitigation strategies were to shift emphasis to other non-weather-related activities. However, due to the relative frequency of droughts, communities suggested that the project support the installation of water reservoirs and irrigation structures at each the CSBs in Somaliland that could allow seed multiplication and varietal trials even under poor rainfall conditions. In Puntland there is already a water source, but the community requested support for irrigation structures. We have therefore allocated the funding for Activity 2.2 for this purpose and the construction will be completed in January.

Pests and diseases: The second rainy season (Dayr) has been better, and has allowed farmers to produce some crops, however, these have been affected by pests and diseases. This is also a finding of the seed security assessments. The Ministries of Agriculture in Somaliland and Puntland do not have functioning extension services, thus knowledge and support on adequate field and post-harvest management to manage pests and diseases is limited. This will be one topic of the post-harvest management trainings. In addition, DF currently has a plant pathologist on staff who has agreed to produce a simple manual to help guide partners and community seed banks to address these problems.

Flash flood: The Dayr rains also brought a flash flood in Cuun village (Puntland) washed out a newly erected soil bund in Cuun village. The flooding has also affected infrastructure, crops, shallow wells and other agricultural facilities in the area. See attached a mini report written about the floods. During the construction of the soil bunds in 2018, Cuun community was mobilized, and farmer association was established. They contributed labour to the construction of the soil bunds. Also, they were prepared to monitor and maintain the soil bunds to follow-up on its stabilization and impacts on the crop production. Therefore, KAALO is planning to consult with the Puntland Ministry of Agriculture and Environment on re-constructing and rehabilitating the soil bunds affected by the flash floods. The Technical Assessment for the soil and water conservation structures will also be revised, and will indicate mitigation measures for reducing flood effects on water and soil conservations, and in general protecting the livelihood of the target communities. If needed, DF will evaluate the possibility of using funds from another DF project "Community Resilience in Puntland and Somaliland" supported by the European Union to replace the washed-out soil bunds. This will allow the project to stay on track to achieve the 120 hectares of rehabilitated lands.

Audit process: In the annual report we explained that DF funds to ADO were frozen in early 2018 due to problems identified in the partners' procurement practices. This issue has now been satisfactorily resolved. However, to ensure good financial control, DF changed auditors this year and ensured a thorough annual audit of all partners (conducted in March). The auditor identified some areas for improvement. DF followed up, and did not disburse funds to partners until satisfactory responses to the audit were submitted by all partners. This caused a delay in implementation of activities in Q1 of the current reporting period.

Capacity development: Some of the project activities and outputs including Output 1, Act 2.4-2.6, and Act 4.1 are new to the partners and the government to implement so the project has involved a continuous process of learning and capacity development. DF has followed up carefully to ensure that activities proceed with sufficient quality, however as a result, these activities took quite long to be prepared and implemented. Following unexpected delays in the project start-up in year 1, a change request was submitted in January 2018 to re-allocate funds to this year. However, given the time needed to ensure proper capacity development and quality, we expect that it will be difficult for the project to absorb the re-allocated funds, and achieve the expected results within the current project timeframe. We believe the recommendation of the project's annual report Reviewer to request an extension of 6-12 months is a good solution.

2b. Have any of these issues been discussed with LTS International and if so, have changes been made to the original agreement?

Discussed with LTS: No (but see request in section 4)

Formal change request submitted: No

Received confirmation of change acceptance No

3a. Do you currently expect to have any significant (e.g., more than £5,000) underspend in your budget for this year?

Yes No Estimated underspend:

3b. If yes, then you need to consider your project budget needs carefully. Please remember that any funds agreed for this financial year are only available to the project in this financial year.

If you anticipate a significant underspend because of justifiable changes within the project, please submit a rebudget Change Request as soon as possible. There is no guarantee that Defra will agree a rebudget so please ensure you have enough time to make appropriate changes if necessary.

4. Are there any other issues you wish to raise relating to the project or to Darwin's management, monitoring, or financial procedures?

Due to the delays incurred in the first year, as well as a better understanding of the capacity development process required to implement the project activities, we would like to request a meeting with Darwin in early November to discuss the possibility of requesting a no-cost extension of 12 months, as suggested by the Annual Report Review.

If you were asked to provide a response to this year's annual report review with your next half year report, please attach your response to this document. Additionally, if you were funded under R25 and asked to provide further information by your first half year report, please attach your response as a separate document.

Please note: Any planned modifications to your project schedule/workplan can be discussed in this report but **should also be raised with LTS International through a Change Request. **Please DO NOT send these in the same email.****

Please send your **completed report by email** to Darwin-Projects@ltsi.co.uk. The report should be between 2-3 pages maximum. **Please state your project reference number in the header of your email message e.g. Subject: 25-035 Darwin Half Year Report**