

PROJECT REPORT

FFA 2022-23 LIVELIHOOD PROJECT SUCCESS STORIES (MUDUG & NUGAL).

INTRODUCTION

In 2023, SDC in partnership with WFP implemented drought recovery program – FFA/VFA project which was a part of intervention designed to enable households to meet basic food needs during drought season, this project is especially important since a vast majority of the population are originally pastoralists but have been affected by the ongoing drought that has significantly led to food and water shortage. Other challenges witnessed are decreased nutritional value due to food shortage, lack of clean and safe water for household. The project targets 6 villages of Roor, Heema, Bursalah, Dhagxanya-Cade, Caano-Yaskax and Kalabayr of Galkayo & Garowe District.

OUTCOME

The project expected outcome is to create and produce assets required to cushion and save lives during the drought and other hardships including protecting livelihoods by strengthening and mainstreaming the traditional and local coping strategies in empowering households in the area to be food secure and their general wellbeing. The implementation periods are 4 months, from December 2022 to March 2023, the total numbers of households are 1457 households. In addition, before the project started, SDC successfully mobilized and sensitized the communities and informed them on the criteria that is to be used in selecting the beneficiaries including the number of beneficiaries in each respective location.

OBJECTIVE

The primary objective of this project implementation is to make sure only the most vulnerable households in the two Districts, Mudug and Nugal regions benefit from agricultural trainings and eventually become self-sustainable households. The beneficiaries are all part of a community that have collectively formed cooperatives that primarily work on community owned land. SDC facilitated GAP practical trainings on the selected sites through professional agronomists. Activities to be implemented during the course of the project included farm/vegetable gardens cultivation while also rehabilitating and creating farm assets such as shallow wells, solar panels and irrigation pipes. Beneficiaries were taught on safe and alternative methods of crop pests and weed management together with important farm management techniques. Crop calendars were also influential in the cultivation process as it helped boost farmers moral in knowing that there's a higher potential of the crops cultivated having a high yield.

Benefits of GAP- (Good Agricultural Practices) to cooperative sites.

There are various benefits a community enjoys from the GAP curriculum. One of them is that it serves as a motivation factor to the beneficiaries as the curriculum is tailor made to suite each site challenges and mitigation measures. Beneficiaries are trained on economical food production methods, alternative farming techniques, farm management, crop and disease control. These training activities took place on farm sites with practical lessons from skilled agronomists. Due to

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constant changes in weather patterns, beneficiaries also received crop calendar trainings so as to cultivate suitable crops.

RESULT OF MONITORING AND EVALUATION.

Beneficiaries have been actively encouraged to implement the lessons learnt from primary training sites into their own personal gardens. Over the course of the project duration, many beneficiaries have tried to implement the strategies learnt. We have been providing assistance where needed either through provision of seeds or expert advice and guidance. We have selected a few personal gardens across Mudug and Nugal and the results are as follows:

Mahamoud Axmed Ismaaciil a farmer in Nugal was part of Caanoyaskax cooperative site has 1-hectare personal farm. He was positively influenced by the agricultural trainings and started to grow his own vegetables to sustain his household. He decided to grow carrots, water melon and sweet melon on small scale in hopes of better yields.

Mohamud is a highly motivated farmer especially after receiving sufficient trainings and regular visits from SDC commissioned agronomist. He advocates for changing the perspective of agricultural livelihood in the surrounding community by encouraging other members to consider farming as an alternative source of livelihood. His household works very hard in managing the farm, he is also actively training his children on farming activities. He's willing to harvest huge carrot yields and melons at the beginning of May. Even though the farm is facing challenges such as water shortage, pest and diseases, Mr. Mohamud applies the safe pest control measures taught on the primary site by SDC agronomist.

Heema cooperative site in Mudug, has positively impacted the decision of Mrs. Zaynab Farah to cultivate her home garden. She expressed her commitment to continuously cultivate her home



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garden; this is after being impressed by the good agricultural practices' trainings facilitated by SDC professional agronomist. "My perception on agricultural activities was changed and I decided to establish my home garden. I am extremely thankful for this project since I can now provide nutritious meals to my household" Happily, stated Mrs. Zaynab Farah. The outcome of her farming activities is a relatively healthy farm with a cultivation of water melon, tomatoes, okra hot pepper and pumpkin. In the course of next week, she plans on harvesting water melon and okra.



Zainab Preparing a nutritious meal from the home garden harvest.

Bursalah cooperative site is represented by several beneficiaries transitioning into household gardening. Mrs. Hawo Haraa Bulhan, is one of many beneficiaries who stated that after she received agricultural skills and GAPs training from the community farm, she was able to make an informed decision on what crops to start cultivating in her home garden. "Through crop calendar trainings, I realized that there is no limitation to creating a productive kitchen garden. I have so far planted crops such as hot pepper, coriander and tomato. They are doing so well and all are in the period of harvesting." Said Mrs. Hawo Haraa Bulhan. During the SDC agronomist farm visits, we noted insect infestation on the crops and we recommended measurements of insecticides and natural fertilizers to be used. Through our visits we distribute quality seeds to be used in the gardens together with right farm tools such as shovels, hoe and fork.

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Hawo harvesting vegetables from her kitchen garden in Bursalax.

These farmers were part of the beneficiaries encouraged to transition, because their households were some of the most severely affected by the drought situation in the region. Their households have little to no food and the available options have no nutritional value. These women are the only breadwinners in their households that expands up to 6 or more members. The economic situation in the country has also made it hard for them to adequately sustain themselves without

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an effective alternative source of livelihood. A majority of the gardens are small, measuring 50M² but these beneficiaries are positive in ensuring they'll get good yields with necessary assistance.



SDC monitoring personal gardens and distributing tree seedlings.

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RECOMMENDATION AND CONCLUSION

The cooperative sites only serve as a temporal solution. One of the recommendations is to introduce more transition projects that go a long way in rescuing the famine situation. This can be done by actively encouraging all beneficiaries with personal land to consider transitioning from primary training sites and into their own farms. As an implementing partner we have rehabilitated and created shallow wells near the communities' so as to provide convenient water sources and accelerate the process. Also, drilling boreholes can provide a continuous fresh and clean water supply throughout the seasons.

Another recommendation is to increase education on water conservation practices among migrants and community members. As a result of continuous monitoring, we have come to the conclusion that the livelihood project has positively impacted the opinions of the local community. We however recommend consideration to extend the project so as to positively impact the rest of the community into involvement in agricultural activities as a primary source of living. Positive results generated from more household garden will influence other community members to join the agricultural sector. This can be achieved through more community trainings, sensitization and expert assistance.



Beneficiary cultivating tomato tree seedlings.