

SALAAM DEVELOPMENT CENTRE (SDC)
PUNTLAND - SOMALIA
Tell: +252-907795482/7600833
Email: Salaamcentre1@gmail.com/sdc.prog@gmail.com
Address: HQ. office- 1Aug-Garowe.



13TH NOV 2023.

SDC -KOBICIYE PROJECT SITES FOLLOW UP REPORT ON FARM LAND RECLAMATION ACTIVITIES.

ACKNOWLEDGEMNET.

SDC evaluation team in conjunction with, World Food Programme (WFP) and the Ministry of Agriculture & Irrigation-Puntland, have been continuously monitoring the Kobciye sites in Nugal Region since its implementation in February of 2023 to date. This document was prepared by the project assistant on the basis of the mission's work in the field.

On behalf of the team, the author wishes to extend thanks to all those who facilitated the team's work in the field and in the office Headquarters. Information and opinions expressed in this report rests solely with the author based on the field observation and team's collective conclusions.

CONTENTS.

PREFACE.	3
1.INTRODUCTION.	3
2.PROJECT OBJECTIVE.	3
3.M&E FINDINGS.	4
4.BNF TESTIMONIALS.	4
5.M&E OBSTRUCTIONS.	5
6.RECOMMENDATIONS.	6
7.CONCLUSION.	6
8.ANNEXES.	7

PREFACE.

The following report reflects observations and recommendations from SDC M&E team together with MOAI that have been visiting the four Kobciye sites i.e., (Laacdhare, Balley, Rabaable and Cuun) all within Nugal Region. This summary and key recommendations are being submitted to the Executive Board on November 18TH 2023 for reviews and considerations.

To get a fuller consecutive picture of project's impact, the report should be analyzed in view of the annexes provided after the narrations. This was, indeed, a unique experience as the teams interacted with the local community in light of highlighting testimonials and lessons from particular moments in the evolution of a highly striving operation.

1.INTRODUCTION.

SDC, in collaboration with WFP, is implementing the Kobciye Project in the Garowe district of the Nugal region. The project has been designed through the Food systems lens, aims to enhance the food security and nutrition of smallholder farmers by building their resilience to shocks. The implementation period has been set for one year, from **February 2023 to January 2024**. The project has been specifically targeting internally displaced persons, women, and youth. It aims at strengthening their production capacity, improving household consumption of nutritious foods, increasing commercialization of production, and diversifying livelihoods to enhance overall income security.

Since its implementation the project has achieved several milestones significantly moving closer and closer to achieving the ultimate project objective. Lead farmers have undergone various impactful trainings that have been over the course cascaded to the rest of the beneficiaries through one-on-one interactions within the farming sites. Currently farmers are on the cultivating stages of the project and with the skillset they have managed to attain through expert trainings, farmers are confident and motivated to explore virgin lands. By this SDC in conjunction with WFP and the ministry of agriculture-MOAI, distributed tractors to all eligible farms so as to facilitate efficient land reclamation activities.

2.PROJECT OBJECTIVE.

Our objective is to improve the food security and nutrition of smallholder farmers by enhancing their resilience to shocks through a food systems approach and integrated programming across multiple sectors. The project aims to achieve three key outcomes:

1. Empowering smallholder farmer producer groups (cooperatives) to develop their capacity, enabling them to become inclusive, self-governing, and demand-driven community-based organizations.
2. Assisting smallholder farmers in expanding their production capacity, thereby addressing the significant challenges they face in ensuring food and nutrition security.
3. Helping smallholder farmers improve the quality of their production by adopting climate-friendly technologies and equipping them with the necessary knowledge and skills to operate these technologies effectively.

3.M&E FINDINGS.

In monitoring and evaluating the Kobciye Project, several key findings have emerged:

Firstly, smallholder farmer producer groups have demonstrated significant improvement in their capacity and organizational structure. Through training and support, they have become more inclusive, independent, and responsive to the needs of their communities. This empowerment is essential in building resilience and enhancing food security for affected communities.

Secondly, the expansion of smallholder farmers' production capacity has been successful, addressing the challenges they face in ensuring food and nutrition security. The adoption of Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) farming techniques and the provision of farming technologies, such as tractors, have allowed farmers to reclaim virgin land and increase their productivity. This will hopefully result in greater food production and improved household consumption of nutritious foods.

Furthermore, the adoption of climate-friendly technologies has led to a significant improvement in the quality of smallholder farmers' production. Through training and skills development, farmers are able to effectively operated these technologies, leading to positive outlook of higher yields and better resilience to climate shocks. This will not only enhance their income security but also contributed to sustainable farming practices in the region.

4.BNF TESTIMONIALS.

Beneficiaries of the Kobciye Project have expressed their happiness and satisfaction with the outcomes this far. They have highlighted how the project has provided them with valuable farming experience through one-on-one expert training. The knowledge and skills gained from this training have empowered them to expand their farms and look towards future harvests with optimism. Many beneficiaries have reported increased income and improved food security for their households, which has positively impacted their overall well-being. One such beneficiary

includes Hawo Osman from Laacdhere side who expressed her enthusiasm and gratitude towards the project outcomes, she stated:

“I am happy that my community is empowered. My children’s children and many generations more will greatly benefit from such a promising and impactful project. My perspective on sustainable farming has changed and that’s thanks to the continuous expert and donor support. Now I’m confident enough to explore and expand my farm while also spreading awareness to others about its benefits. I am optimistic that in the near future we shall reap a good harvest and celebrate collectively as a community. Once more thank you for helping us realize that we can achieve self-sustainable agricultural practices despite having no agricultural background.”



5.M&E OBSTRUCTIONS.

Although the Kobciye Project has been on a positive path of achieving its objectives, some obstacles have been encountered during the monitoring and evaluation process. The lack of reliable and timely data collection has posed challenges in assessing the impact of the project accurately. Limited resources and capacity within local communities to collect and report data have hindered the M&E efforts. Despite formulating a strengthened data collection and reporting mechanisms i.e., our team collaborated with local communities and authorities so as to get timely and accurate data.

Additionally, the temporary nature of the beneficiary population, particularly internally displaced persons, has made it difficult to track and evaluate the long-term impact of the project on their livelihoods. Significantly the project has a target number of sites and this has caused some friction amongst communities that felt left out. As an implementing partner we have since conducted elaborate community engagement campaigns to tackle these differences. Seemingly beneficiaries who have been selected have a high expectation from the project forgetting that it is a resilient project whereby each party plays a role in ensuring the project success.

6.RECOMMENDATIONS.

To overcome these M&E obstructions, these are some of the improvements we recommend: Building the capacity of community members in data collection and analysis will facilitate more accurate monitoring and evaluation. Regular training sessions or workshops can be conducted to empower community members and equip them with the necessary skills. Furthermore, developing standardized M&E tools and ensuring their accessibility to all stakeholders will streamline the data collection process and improve data quality. Beneficiary engagement and awareness campaigns should move hand in hand with other project activities to ensure beneficiaries understand their roles and rights within the project guidelines. Thereby minimizing back and forth negotiations stalling the projects' planned progress. This by no means states that beneficiary concerns are obsolete but it goes to say that issues that can be mitigated immediately will have room to be done so immediately rather than later.

7.CONCLUSION.

The Kobciye Project has demonstrated significant progress in enhancing the food security and nutrition of smallholder farmers in Garowe. Through a food systems approach and integrated programming, the project is on the path of empowering farmers through expansion of their production capacity while improving the quality of their production. The enthusiasm and success stories shared by beneficiaries highlight the positive impact of the project. By addressing the identified M&E obstructions and implementing the recommended solutions, the project's impact can be further enhanced, leading to sustainable food security and improved livelihoods in the region.

8.ANNEXES.



Land reclamation activities taking place using tractors for increased efficiency, Cuun, Laacdhare and Belley sites.





Successful plots of land that have been reclaimed, installed with an elaborate drip irrigation system and cultivation has begun.