

Assessment Report: Input Allocation per site for
Multilateral Fund Project in Rabaable, Laacdheere, Balley,
and Cuun sites (Nugal, Puntland, Somalia).



SALAAM DEVELOPMENT CENTER HQ: 1 AUG-GAROWE, PUNTLAND-SOMALIA.

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1. Introduction

Salaam Development Center conducted an assessment of input allocation per site for the Multilateral Project Fund. The purpose of this assessment was to determine the number of inputs to be allocated to each site. During the assessment, the team visited all the different sites of the multilateral project - Cuun, Balley/Jibagalle, Laacdheere, and Rabaable - and met with the community to discuss the assessment's objectives and the importance of community participation.

Between September 2nd and 8th, 2024, the SDC conducted assessments to Rabaable, Laacdheere, Cuun, and Balley to engage with the local communities regarding the multilateral project fund. During these sessions, the community was provided with comprehensive information about the project's various activities and their implementation timeline, which is set to be completed by December 2024. This step has facilitated the interaction and positive responses among the community which is based on the selection criteria.

Moreover, the insights and feedback gathered from these interactions were carefully considered in the decision-making process regarding input allocation. By involving the community in these discussions, Salaam Development Center ensured that the project's implementation was not only informed by the needs of the community but also aligned with their aspirations and priorities, fostering a sense of ownership and collaboration in the project's success.

2. Assessment Objectives

The following were about the intended assessments' objectives:

- To Identify suitable farms in all four locations for installing electromagnetic inputs for drip irrigation systems.
- To allocate poultry and bee-keeping activities in the multilateral Project Fund per sites.
- To identify, and observe the sites and allocate them for constructing gabions, water catchments, and half-moons.
- To identify and evaluate women at each site for selection of the loan guarantee program.
- To identify, select, and allocate beneficiaries for HDPE pipes in each site.

3. Methodology

Extensive field surveys were carried out, involving a wide range of cooperatives and individual farmers. These surveys aimed to gather detailed information and observations about the local environment and its impact on agricultural practices. Additionally, a comprehensive series of focus

group discussions was conducted with active participation from the local community and key stakeholders. The main goal of these discussions was to identify and prioritize the specific agricultural input requirements that would be supported through the multilateral fund, ensuring that they align with the needs of the community.

4. Assessment Criteria for Input Allocation per Site.

Some important factors were taken into account when the team was embarking on allocating inputs per site and community consultation and engagement-centered approach were the main ones.

a. Electro-Magnetic Water Treatment Devices allocation criteria per site.

To identify and allocate these inputs among the various sites, a variety of criteria have been developed. This is to address clogging due to mineral scaling in Drip Irrigation Systems. The criteria are established as follows:

NO	Criteria	Details
1	Community request	Community is an important factor and it has been consulted with the community for their need for magnetic water treatment and they have shown a great interest in this input.
2	Drip irrigation availability	Drip irrigation availability is another criterion that has been designed for magnetic water treatment to be allocated. Those Farms that have drip irrigation are eligible to be candidates for this device.
3	Drip irrigation maintenance	This looks after how the different four site farmers maintained the drip irrigation that had been provided previously in the Kobciye Project or owned by some other way.
4	# of times harvested	How many seasons are harvested by the currently available drip irrigation is also something to be checked to ensure that the farmer is eligible to be scaled up by electromagnetic water treatment.

5	Salinity condition	Salinity is an important criterion for allocating more electromagnetic water treatment. The salinity variety of different sites has also been observed and allocation was done accordingly.
6	Preparedness for planting next season	Farmers who have prepared the drip irrigation for the next plantation season will also be given priority.

b. Gabion, water catchment, and Half Moon's allocation criteria per site.

The proposed activity focuses on the implementation of rainwater harvesting techniques, including the construction of half-moons and water catchments and gabions.

SDC conducted a field survey and observations between September 2nd to 8th 2024 in all four sites—Rabaable, Laacdheere, Balley, and Cuun—to ensure the suitability of these activities for the environment and their acceptability within the community.

The criteria for these activities are as shown below:

NO		Gabion, water catchment, and Half Moon's allocation criteria per site.
	Criteria	Details
1.	Community request	Community is an important factor and it has been consulted with the community for their interest in water harvesting techniques like half-moons, water catchment, and construction of gabions.
2.	Flood risk rate	In allocation of gabions to the sites farmers that get floods from riverine will be considered to slow the velocity of water and mitigate the flood risk. As it is seen in observation these problems are common in Rabaable and Cuun.

3.	Gulley	The existence of a gulley is another prerequisite for sites to be allocated to a gabion as it causes danger to destroy the whole farms. This has been observed during the assessment. SDC has observed that Cuun and Rabaable farms are at risk due to gulley.
4.	Nearness to riverine/streams	In this assessment, Farmers lining or near the riverine has been designed to be scaled up for a gabion.
5.	Flatness	The assessment also considered the area to be constructed as the half-moon. For the half-moon, the land to be allocated should be flat, therefore it has been found that Balley is the most appropriate place for implementation of the half-moon.
6.	Farmer's vulnerability	Community vulnerability is another factor that has been taken into account. As for the result, Rabaable and Cuun are more vulnerable compared to Cuun and Laacdehere.

c. Poultry and Beekeeping Allocation Criteria Per-site:

To identify and allocate poultry and beekeeping members selection in the various sites as Cooperative for the activities, the below criteria have been developed for the selection of members to establish and implement these two activities:

NO	Criteria	Details
2.	Community request	Community is an important factor and it has been consulted with the community for their need for poultry/beekeeping and they have shown a great interest in this input.
3.	Farmers' experience of Poultry/Beekeeping	Prioritizing farmers with significant experience in poultry or beekeeping is crucial for successful establishment and management.

4.	Years of Experience	How many years have the farmers been engaged/ considering how many years have they been involved in poultry or beekeeping to gauge their understanding of the practices?
5.	Premises/Land availability	Evaluated the availability of farmers for suitable land for setting up poultry/beekeeping infrastructure to ensure adequate space for operations.
6.	Water Availability	Confirmation of sufficient water sources for poultry/beekeeping operations is crucial for the health and well-being of the animals and bees.
7.	Farmer's Commitment	We evaluated the level of dedication and commitment of the farmers towards poultry/beekeeping, which included the willingness to invest time, effort, and resources into the venture on a long-term basis.

d. Credit guarantee facility for agricultural loans including training on financial inclusion

SDC has worked with female smallholder farmers in the four locations to assess and choose the appropriate candidates for credit guarantee facilities for agricultural loans. This process is vital to guarantee a fair and efficient selection of participants. Below are the criteria for the selection:

Criteria	Details
Community request	Community is an important factor and it has been consulted with the female smallholder farmers for their need for credit loans to initiate/support their businesses and they have shown a great interest in this input.
Financial Vulnerability	Female farmers face financial challenges in supporting their farms and businesses and enhancing the production of the farm

Market Connection	Evaluating female farmers' access to market network and connection for sales and expenditure growth.
Business availability	Evaluating the presence of viable and sustainable agricultural businesses of the female smallholder farmers helps guarantee that the loans will be utilized effectively and contribute to the economic empowerment and success of the farmers.
Farmer's Commitment	Assessed the dedication and willingness of female farmers to actively participate in and commit to their agricultural businesses.
Loan Repayment	Evaluated female smallholder farmers fulfill their financial obligations promptly, which is essential for maintaining the sustainability and integrity of the financial system.

5. Allocation of Inputs of the Four Sites

After conducting multiple evaluations to determine the distribution of resources in Laacdheere, Rabaable, Balley, and Cuun, SDC has concluded that specific inputs are required in each of these locations to enhance agricultural productivity, sustainability, and livelihood based on the selection criteria mentioned above for each activity included in the project. The table below shows the allocation of inputs per site:

No	Activities	Planned Inputs	Cuun	Rabaable	Laacdheere	Balley
1	Implementing Magnetic Water Treatment Devices to Address clogging due to mineral scaling in Drip Irrigation Systems	5	1	1	1	2
2	Promote income-generating activities (IGA) for income diversification for small-scale farmers through beekeeping /Poultry farming	5	1	2	1	1

3	Credit guarantee facility for agricultural loans including training on financial inclusion	6	2	2	1	1
4	Rainwater harvesting techniques (Temporary Water catchment and Gabion construction for Flood protection)	5	1	2	1	1
5	Provide complete Solar-Powered Cooling Facilities to the existing Post-Harvest Storage Rooms	4	1	1	1	1
6	Soil Testing Kit	4	1	1	1	1
7	Community Composting for Organic Fertilizers	4	1	1	1	1
8	Provide and install 2" HDPE pipes from the Well to the tank and from the tank to the Drip Site and provide all necessary fittings.	13	3	4	3	3
Total		47	11	14	10	11

The table illustrates the distribution of inputs across sites, determined by specific assessment criteria following community consultation. According to the table, the Balley site is designated 2 electromagnetic water treatments, while Rabaable, Laacdheere, and Cuun sites are each allocated 1 unit.

Regarding poultry/peacekeeping activities, Rabaable site has been assigned 2 peacekeeping units due to their expertise and preparedness for this role. Conversely, the Balley, Cuun, and Laacdheere sites have each been allocated one unit.

It has been observed that gullies and riverine floods, necessitating the implementation of rainwater harvesting techniques and flood protection measures. As a response, two gabion constructions have been designated for Rabaable and one for Cuun. Additionally, the community's request for water harvesting has led to the allocation of a water catchment at the Laacdheere site. Furthermore, the Balley site has been identified as suitable for a half-moon activity due to its flat terrain and environmental needs, in accordance with the assessment criteria.

A credit guarantee facility for agricultural loans and financial inclusion has been set up as part of a multilateral fund project in FLA, with a focus on benefitting 6 women. Within this initiative, 2 women from Rabaable and Cuun have been identified to receive support due to their vulnerability in terms of income and societal needs. Additionally, one woman each from Laacdheere and Balley/Jibagalle has been allocated to assist as well.

As the table above shows, for providing complete Solar-Powered Cooling Facilities to the existing Post-Harvest Storage Rooms, all four sites of Rabaable, Laacdheere, Balley, and Cuun will similarly benefit from this activity and each of the post-harvesting rooms will be worked.

Following that, each site of Rabaable, Laacdheere, Balley, and Cuun is allocated to receive one soil testing kit. Similarly, as per the information provided in the table, each site including Laacdheere, Rabaable, Cuun, and Balley is designated to establish a community composting unit for organic fertilizers.

Finally, based on the information provided in the table, it is indicated that for the specific activity involving the provision and installation of 2" HDPE pipes from the well to the tank and from the tank to the drip site, the allocation of resources is as follows: 3 pipes each have been allocated to Cuun, Laacdheere, and Balley, and 4 pipes have been designated to Rabaable.

6. Challenges

- The expectations of the beneficiaries for these agricultural inputs are high, and every farmer is striving to acquire them.
- The farms face a high risk of water floods and gullies, necessitating the construction of additional gabions. However, the limited availability of inputs for gabion construction poses a challenge that we are confident in overcoming.
- The knowledge of communities in poultry/beekeeping is limited in some sites and it has to be ensured that this is allocated to the appropriate site and beneficiary to avoid delay of the implementation or any inefficiency that may arise after.
- Some of the sites have raised concerns about the allocation of half-moons for implementation. They have specifically requested water catchments and gabions as an alternative to address their specific needs and environmental challenges.
- People's lack of knowledge about the half-moons requires additional effort to persuade them to embrace modern rainwater harvesting techniques.

7. Conclusions and Recommendations

- At the stage of the community engagement, the communities of all target sites have warmly welcomed the newly designed activities and showed their interest in the multilateral project fund.
- The selection criteria of farms for agricultural technology should be shared with the community. This will allow for suitable farms to be chosen based on the criteria while maintaining accountability and integrity.
- A selection criterion should be explained very clearly to the community and should be followed to ensure that the chosen farms meet specific standards.
- There high need to implement water treatment and management strategies to address high water salinity, such as desalination systems or appropriate treatment techniques.
- To enhance flood protection interventions like gabions in the future, as the currently available allocated gabions are insufficient to effectively mitigate the risk of gullies at present.
- The knowledge of communities in poultry and beekeeping is limited in some areas, so it's important to ensure that resources are allocated to the appropriate site and beneficiary to prevent delays in implementation.
- Very effective training should be given to the communities regarding poultry and beekeeping activities to increase the increase productivity and efficiency of the project implementation.
- Resources allocation and implementation should be in line with the community's needs and priorities.
- More community engagement and effort should be dedicated to addressing the lack of awareness in communities about the benefits of the half-moons. Practical demonstrations and real-life examples should be utilized to illustrate how half-moons can positively impact communities.

8. Annex

Photos

a. Community Engagement and Consultation photos:





Figures 1, 2 & 3: SDC and Community Cooperatives during Community Mobilization and Consultation on Multi-lateral Project Fund.

b. Rainwater Harvest Techniques (Water catchment, Gabion, and Half Moon):



Figure 4: SDC staff alongside one female Cooperative member during Observation for Gabion assessment.



Figures 5 & 6: Observation on Rabaable's stream due to Gully caused by heavy rainfall water.



Figures 7 & 8: SDC team during observation of Gully at one of Implementation site.



Figures 9 & 10: SDC team during the identification and observing the suitable location of Half Moon Implementation on Balley site.

c. Drip Irrigation Assessment for Electromagnetic Water Treatment Devices:



Figures 11 & 12: SDC Monitoring Officer and Project Coordinator during the identification and observation of Drip Irrigation Systems at Rabaable site.



Figures: 13 & 14: Identification and verification of Drip Irrigations at Laacdheere site.



Figures 15 & 16: SDC Agronomist Identifying and monitoring the Drip Irrigation Systems at Cuun site.