



SDC-JRP PROJECT, COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT REPORT.

Introduction.

This report details the comprehensive community engagement activities conducted by the SDC-JRP project team in Galdogob District, Mudug Region, Somalia. The JRP project aims to improve household and community resilience, enhance food security, and strengthen government and community systems for effective livelihood services. These activities included community meetings to gather input and ensure local needs are addressed, educating residents on sustainable agricultural practices, and collaborative sessions with local government officials to align project goals with regional development plans. Additionally, field visits were organized to monitor and assess the implementation of agricultural technologies by local smallholder farmers. These efforts are designed to foster community ownership, build local capacity, and ensure the sustainability of project outcomes, ultimately contributing to a more resilient and food-secure region.

Community Engagement Activities.

- **Assessment:** Prior to project implementation, the SDC-JRP project team conducted a thorough assessment in all target villages, including **Galdogob, Bursalah, Darusalam, Qansahleh, Laan-madow, Kuweyt, and Tuulo-xanan-Dudun**. This assessment aimed to increase community awareness related to food security and livelihoods and involved multiple methodologies such as focus group discussions, household surveys, and consultations with community leaders and local government officials.
- By engaging in these activities, the team gathered essential baseline data, identified specific needs and challenges within each village, and will ensure that project strategies will be tailored to address the unique circumstances of each community. This comprehensive approach will lay a solid foundation for informed decision-making and effective project implementation, fostering community trust and collaboration from the project's outset.

- **Community Meetings:** Regular community meetings are a cornerstone for a successful project cycle, providing a vital platform for communication between the SDC-JRP project team and local residents. These meetings are designed to inform the community about ongoing project activities, timelines, and expected outcomes, ensuring transparency and fostering trust. Furthermore, they serve as an essential forum for community feedback and suggestions, allowing residents to voice their opinions and contribute to the shaping of the project.
- This continuous dialogue helps in identifying any emerging issues or areas for improvement, facilitating adaptive management and enhancing the relevance and effectiveness of the projects' interventions. By actively involving the community in the project's progress, these meetings reinforced local ownership and commitment, crucial for the sustainability of positive project outcomes.

Outcomes of Community Engagement.

Increased Awareness: Community members gained a better understanding of the JRP project's goals and the importance of food security and resilience-building strategies. Through various meetings, informational sessions, and interactive activities, the community has become more informed about how these strategies could directly impact their lives. This heightened awareness is crucial as it equips the community with the knowledge necessary to support and sustain the project's initiatives, thereby ensuring its long-term success.

Sense of Ownership: Through active participation, community members felt a sense of ownership over the project, fostering a more sustainable approach. By involving them in decision-making processes and implementation activities, they develop a personal stake in the project's outcomes. This sense of ownership not only motivates ongoing participation but also encourages community members to take initiative in maintaining and advancing the project's goals, leading to greater overall sustainability.

Improved Communication: Regular interaction facilitated open communication between SDC, community members, and local authorities. This continuous dialogue helps in identifying and addressing issues promptly, thus ensuring smoother project execution. It also builds trust among all parties involved, creating a more collaborative environment where concerns can be openly discussed and resolved, and feedback can be effectively integrated into project activities.

Enhanced Collaboration: Community engagement is fostering collaboration between community members, leading to a more unified approach to addressing food security challenges. By working together, individuals are able to share resources, ideas, and support, thereby strengthening their collective ability to respond to and manage these challenges. This collaborative spirit not only enhances the effectiveness of the project but also promotes a stronger, more cohesive community.

Recommendations for Future Engagement.

Continue Regular Communication: Maintain open communication channels with the community throughout and after project completion. Regular updates and consistent interaction can help keep community members informed and involved, ensuring that they remain engaged with the project's objectives. This ongoing communication is vital for addressing any emerging issues and for reinforcing the community's commitment to the project's success.

Promote Knowledge Sharing: Encourage knowledge sharing among community members to ensure the long-term sustainability of acquired skills and practices. By organizing regular training sessions, possibly workshops, and forums for discussion, community members can continuously learn from each other and stay updated on best practices. This culture of knowledge sharing helps to preserve and enhance the skills and practices introduced by the project, ensuring they remain effective over time.

Empower Local Leadership: Work with and empower local leaders to ensure the project's benefits continue to reach the community. By providing local leaders with the necessary training and resources, they can effectively champion the project's goals and ensure sustained community engagement. Empowered leaders can act as role models and motivators, driving continued community involvement and ensuring that the project's benefits are widely distributed and maintained.

Consider Local Feedback: Incorporate community feedback into future project planning and implementation to ensure continued relevance and effectiveness. Actively seeking and valuing the input of community members ensures that the project remains aligned with their needs and priorities. This approach not only enhances the project's impact but also fosters a sense of inclusion and respect, further strengthening the relationship between the project team and the community as project activities are tailored to their specific needs and area context.

Conclusion.

Effective community engagement is crucial for the success of the JRP project. By actively involving community members throughout the project cycle, SDC has fostered a sense of ownership among participants, ensuring that they feel personally invested in the project's outcomes. This involvement has also improved communication, creating open channels for dialogue between SDC, community members, and local authorities, which helps in promptly addressing any issues and incorporating feedback. Additionally, this engagement has facilitated collaboration within the community, encouraging members to work together towards common goals and share resources and ideas. Continued engagement will be essential to ensure the project's long-term impact, maintaining the momentum and commitment needed for sustained success. Ultimately, this approach will contribute to a more food-secure and resilient future for the

Galdogob district, as the community remains actively involved and supportive of the project's objectives.

MEETING ANNEXES:



Figure 1; Bursalah community Engagement meeting, Galdogob.



Figure 2; Kuweyt village Community Engagement Meeting, Galdogob.



Figure 3; Laan-madow village community Engagement meeting, Galdogob.



Figure 4; Tuulo-xanan-Dudun Village community Engagement Meeting, Galdogob.



Figure 5; Qansaxleh Village Community Engagement Meeting, Galdogob.



Figure 6; Kalabayr Village Community Engagement Meeting.



Figure 7; Darusalaam Village Community Engagement, Galdogob.